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By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

mail feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Sunday, June 5, 2005 ■ 32 pages / vol. 28 / no. 177 | website: www.inq7.net

Unified probe sought

Solon urges truth commission to replace all 'jueteng' inquiries

LIFE ON THE EDGE
Life is not so bad along the banks of the Marikina River, where residents get to take a stroll, smell the flowers and be reminded that their environment-friendly city is worthy of investors in today's celebration of World Environment Day. AP/LYNETTE

By Gil Cabunoguan Jr.
in Manila
and Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A LAWMAKER implicated in the "jueteng" scandal is seeking the formation of a "truth commission" to consolidate the ongoing congressional probes of single-issue-dealing bodies.

"With four simultaneous, well-publicized investigations—in the House of Representatives, the Senate, Department of Justice and National Bureau of Investigation—it's like the nation is watching four sex scandal videos. It is starting to confuse rather than clarify," said Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, who serves as an economic adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Salceda proposed that an independent panel of retired justices be formed to look into the mess and extent of jueteng in the country, similar to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on apartheid formed by South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Salceda said Congress was not capable of passing clearer to the scandal given "its dismal record in investigations, largely due to the many tasks on its plate."

He added: "Political bodies are susceptible to politicking and are largely perceived to be inevitably politicized.

"A panel of retired justices would have the stature, and their findings would be more widely respected. Such a commission will be nonpolitical, as all the four investigations are supposed to be."

Salceda said a truth commission could dispense with "unnecessary controversy" and concentrate on fact-finding even when media attention shall have waned.

"The proceedings would be unimpeached, and a closure is more likely," he said. "Despite their efforts, investigations come up empty or let off easily eventually for the next hot scandal. It is necessary that something positive come from all these negative events."

Salceda was one of four lawmakers—including the President's eldest child, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo—who were named by confessed jueteng operator Willy Ki

GMA shrugs off scandals, vows more reforms

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday shrugged off continue coup rumors, her sagging popularity and corruption allegations against her family, vowing to implement more reforms to kick-start the economy.

Ms Arroyo was generally upbeat in a wide-ranging interview with The Inquirer and Press, reiterating "total commitment" to the war against terrorism, lending increased cooperation with China that has yielded a nearly $5 billion trade surplus for the Philippines, and promising to cut red tape and improve infrastructure.

She said she would start a series of visits on June 10 to Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan to encourage businessmen to invest in the country.

Constitutionally prohibited from seeking another term, Ms Arroyo promised to implement needed reforms to endow the political fallout.

Her approval rating has dropped to an all-time low, according to a poll released Friday that said 58 percent of respondents said they were dissatisfied with her performance. Only 36 percent said they were satisfied.

Asked if her fall in the approval ratings might be used to stir up political unrest, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that "some people might capitalize on this... but I believe our people are tired of disorder. If they are suffering now, the least we

PCSO's lotto losing out to 'jueteng'–Morato

By Jerry E. Esplanada

LOTTO has just made over P10 billion, one-third of which went to government projects.

But it's no cause for celebration, said Manuel "Manolong" L. Morato, currently director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, which operates the numbers double-numbers game.

Lotto makes "should be hitting P20 billion already," Morato told the Inquirer.

"The Lotto queues then were like a huge snake, several blocks long. Today hardly anyone has to fall in line," he lamented.

Sliver had arisen. Two years after the numbers game was introduced here, lotto outlets can be found in only 20 percent of popular convenience nationwide.

Morato, who was PCSO chair and general manager during the Ramos administration, put the blame on "local officials who have been blocking lotto operations for a very obvious reason...to protect their jueteng interests."

"There are mayors who, in this day do issue permits to lotto applicants wishing to put up lotto outlets in their towns and cities," he said.

Morato did not name names. But he pointed out that "whenever jueteng is strong, opposition to lotto is likewise strong."

"This is one big reason why the rolling out of lotto outlets in Luzon and the Visayas-Mindanao areas was delayed, aside from the fact that we indeed have a problem with our telecommunications providers," he said.

Also in blame, Morato said, were his "PCSO successors Libering (the Estrada administration) who slowed down on lotto. Instead of intensifying it, they sanctioned jueteng, which actually affected jueteng to strengthen again."

He recalled that during the early years of lotto, he was "the one thrown at the frontline to face the controversies that erupted when it was being opposed in many areas."

"I later became close to the (but the local officials were against lotto for very obvious reasons. They were protecting illegal jueteng and numbers in their areas. Whenever jueteng was strong, opposition to lotto was, likewise, strong," said Morato.

Today, the situation has not changed much, he said.

Morato said that England and the Philippines started lotto at about the same time—in November 1994 and February 1995, respectively.

In only three years, he said, "England had 40,000 outlets put in place, while we only have a little over 2,000 in the entire country since we started 10 years ago."

Lotto is operated in more than 120 countries worldwide where it is used to

WORLD NEWSPAPER CONGRESS
MALAYSIAN Premier Abdullah Ahmad Badawi addresses the recent 56th World Newspaper Congress in Seoul where the national how the business is making use of digital technology. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the printed headlines, the World Association of Newspapers also awarded the Golden Pen of Freedom to Malaysia Mohamed Salih Jaberi, editor in chief of Al-Ayam newspaper of Bahrain.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mostly sunny and warm today with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening. The rest of Luzon will be hot. Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Second FRONTPAGE

I'm still alive – Archbishop Cruz

DAGUPAN CITY – Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday laughed off text messages saying he had been ambushed and was in critical condition.

Cruz said the text messages, which began circulating yesterday, were just products of a fertile imagination.

"It's another joke," the bishop said in a phone interview yesterday.

"People like to play jokes and relish [their insights in] conversation, they also [use words] to some people as it's not good," he said.

Cruz, who chairs the Broadcasting Arm of Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, was not the only one involved by the anibush rumors.

"I like that. It excites me. You see, I'm still alive. I'm busy working in my office since four in the morning," he said.

"God is merciful," he added in a more serious tone.

One of the text messages read, "Breaking News! Msgr. Rev. Oscar V. Cruz was ambushed by a group of armed men in Arellanos St., Dagupan. He is in the ICU [intensive care unit]. Critical condition. Let us pray for him."

The message was sent from mobile phone number 09 [illegible], but the phone had been turned off when the Inquirer tried to call the number yesterday.

Cruz was supervising the operations of his media holding barrier from his diocese when reached by the Inquirer.

To finance the projects of the archdiocese, Cruz tells Inquirer made from old and scrap wood. He is now working on the renovation of the St. John Cathedral here.

He said staff from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had called him early yesterday about the rumors.

Cruz is scheduled to preside four more witnesses at the Senate hearing into jueteng operations on Monday.

Last week, an unidentified sender sent Cruz a check for P1P million but the prelate said he had returned it as a joke.

He suspected the money was a bribe to get him to stop his crusade against jueteng.

Cruz said there were also rumors circulating that he was paying [illegible] he said he was neither affected nor concerned by them.

"I'm not a homosexual," he said, bursting into laughter.

He said he did not think he would be subjected by those affected by his jueteng expose, either, "because no body would pay the ransom."

In capital City, meanwhile, four unmasks men "Buno" Aguilar de and allegations by Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo that Aguilar was behind the attempt to kill them.

Aguilar said he had nothing to do with the Mayor nor was he the campaign manager of the senator.

Aguilar's name was blurted out on national television by Villafuerte and Arroyo as being behind Mayor's testimony at the Senate where the latter named the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, among others, as being recipients of jueteng payoffs.

Yolanda Ssolo-Ranilla, PDI Short-horn Lucas Bersamira, Inquirer Visayas, PDI Central Luzon Bureau; and Ding Cervantes, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Con-con GMA preference, says Palace

By Cid C. Cabuenyan Jr.

ULTIMATELY, it will be Congress' call.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo was merely expressing a "personal preference" when she urged last week the convening of a constitutional convention to amend the country's Charter and set the stage for a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

"We all know that whatever mode or way we choose to amend the Charter will have to pass Congress," Bunye said on dzIQ 1089 radio.

The President's declaration had dismayed some of her allies, including Senate Speaker Jose de Venecia, who favor amending the Charter through a constitutional assembly composed of the persons members of the legislature.

Mr Arroyo is expected to outline her Charter change strategy in her State of the Nation Address next month.

Bunye said that Malacañang was prepared to provide funding for whatever mode Congress chose to amend the Constitution.

Bunye said Mr Arroyo would only push for Charter change when the second phase of the economic reforms – to bring the benefits of reforms to the masses – had been completed.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., meanwhile, called on Malacañang and Congress to spend the provisions in the Constitution that they wanted to amend to dispel suspicion that the process was intended to promote certain vested interests.

Pimentel said there were many good provisions in the Constitution, such as those on protecting civil liberties and the country's economic interests, that should be kept intact.

Opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal said Mr Arroyo's proposal for a constitutional convention might just be a ploy.

"Is she trying to divert [attention from] the ongoing jueteng issue? Is this another squid tactic of the administration," Madrigal said in a statement.

With John Unson in Bacolod

War declared on illegal PUVs

MP10 into use of every jeepney and other public utility vehicles (PUVs) on Metro Manila's streets illegally plying [illegible] routes, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered local officials to help transport authorities weed out "colorum" (unregistered) vehicles.

The President hopes that by driving colorum buses, jeepneys and tricycles off the roads, legitimate operators would be able to boost their earnings with more riders.

"Since 99 percent of our oil needs are imported, what we need is to lessen the impact of high oil prices," the President said.

The new rate of the measures, along with the suspension of transport associations into cooperatives, pushed by the President during a meeting with transport leaders yesterday in Malacañang to stave further increases in transport fares being demanded by operators in the wake of the continued rise in oil prices.

In a briefing, Transportation Assistant Secretary Dante Lantin estimated that 30 percent of the public utility vehicles on the road were colorum and "if we take them out, 30 percent of revenues will go to legal operators and there will be no more pressure on fare increases."

Although public utility vehicles are granted franchises to operate within a specific route, a significant number of them freelance outside their franchise areas to maximize their profits at the expense of legitimate operators. While there are adequate rules and penalties to discourage poaching in franchise areas, officials noted the lack of enforcement by authorities.

Lantin said the President had given her blessing to Comelec commissioners and cooperators to support the Land Transport Office and the Department of Transportation and Communication in monitoring transport routes to catch colorum vehicles.

Aside from cracking down on the illegal vehicles, the President also encouraged transport groups, particularly truck operators and driver associations to reorganize themselves into cooperatives to maximize their funds. GMC Cabuenyan Jr.

Edna Rose G. Dipasupil

METRO

E-mail: pi_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Text or post feedback:

Child offenders regain hope through art

A JAIL GUARD (left, rear) looks at the artwork of child inmates displayed (right) at the Marikina City jail.

History comes to nature's rescue

By Tina G. Santos

ARAYAT: archeologists will mark World Environment Day today by conducting test diggings at the Mt Arayat National Park to determine the historical significance of the chapel of patch of nature in Pampanga.

Arayat priest Fr. Roberto Reyes, a former archaeology student at the University of the Philippines, will lead the survey.

"Although this initial archaeological survey is only superficial, it aims to answer important questions, like what takes precedence: an environmental or an archaeological clearance or a construction permit?" Reyes said.

He added that whatever artifacts they might find during the diggings would be turned over to the National Museum.

Mahogany for Pope Benedict XVI

Wenner Foundation, the caretaker of the park, said it would also plant 16 Philippine mahogany saplings inside the 2.1-hectare forest park in honor of Pope Benedict XVI.

Regina Paterno, president of the foundation, said this was in response to the request of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, who, she said, asserted there that he was with them to help secure for the environment.

The foundation has been opposing the construction of a two-story teachers' building inside the park, saying the move would result in the destruction of trees and landscape inside what it called Manila's "last lung."

The park was declared an archeological site by the National Museum in April 2003.

"Archbishop Rosales told us that it was worthwhile fighting for the forest, that it's worth saving and fighting for the trees," said Director who, along with fellow Filipino musicians Maribel Chapple, Ana Belen Tan and Jose Ona Dela Rosa Mendiara, met Rosales Friday.

Readers book

Readers also handed them a book, titled "Archie Bell Sutter and the Church He Died For," which he himself wrote about the time still the bishop of Bokidoro, Director said, adding that the book contains inspirational messages concerning the environment.

"[The book] is a compelling story of a priest's zeal to protect the forest. It is also a narrative of a local church's commitment to preserve the gifts of life in nature," Director added.

Apart from Rosales, the environmentalists have also found allies in other poor and religious groups, particularly the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who even initiated a signature campaign expressing support for their cause.

Support from urban poor, religious

"As citizens who love God and value our senses, we strongly support the stand of environmentalists and Wenner Foundation regarding Arayanna forest Park against those who plan to destroy such natural retreat," urban poor and religious groups stated in their manifesto.

Earlier, caravan Angat theaters advised Manila city and school officials to first secure a clearance from the National Museum before they proceed with the construction of the building.

"They should first get a permit from the National Museum and stop the diggings," Director said, who said the park would be hiding more artifacts.

But city and school officials vowed to push through with the project as they argued that they were not given any restraining order asking them to stop the construction of the project.

LOTTO Results

EZ2 SUERTRES

22 7 2 4 4

SIX DIGIT

6 4 9 8 6 7

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min

3 8 13 18 15

P15,949,714.20

DOT counters malaria scare

By Jaymee Aning

PUPS in front of a mission compound in Brooke's Point, Palawan, the tourism department has set into motion a program to conserve the province's natural resources of the southern part of the province through an environmentally sustainable tourism plan.

Northern Palawan, which includes the Calamian and Cuyo island groups, is one of the country's most sought-after destinations whose ecological system needs further protection and preservation, said Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano.

The department has forged an agreement with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the local government of Coron and Busuanga to provide communities with alternative sources of income to ensure that environmentally sustainable tourism programs could be implemented.

Durano said northern Palawan offers a host of cultural and natural attractions. Batanguis and Coron alone have unspoiled beaches, coral covers, shipwrecks and game preserves to fascinate visitors.

"But while we want to develop the region as a prime tourist destination, we also would like to ensure that its natural resources will remain unspoiled," he said in a statement.

The agreement provides for technical assistance for the next two years to Coron's Banuaon-Intogan and Siete Pecados marine parks from the Department of Tourism and and the United Nation Agency for International Development. USAID funds the PBSI (Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest) project of BFAR.

The Bittinan Intogan and Siete Pecados marine parks play a vital role in promoting the coral reefs and Philtt Mo' 3 shipwrecks found in the waters off Coron.

They are also being used as demonstration benchmarks for the collection and management of user and conservation fees to protect the main tourism resources of the region.

The Bittinan Intogan marine park also hosts the 452-hectare Decalve Marine Sanctuary, which has been designated a strict protection and no-fishing zone because of its critical significance in the conservation of marine biodiversity and protection of spawning fish stock.

A 2004 survey done by PBSI reported an average of 60 percent live coral cover in the sanctuary.

Other target projects include the development of a Marine Interpretation Center in Coron to enable visitors to learn about the history, culture and natural resources of the islands of southern Palawan under the theme "From Shipwrecks Reefs," and the training of stakeholders in park management and sustainable tourism development.

The DOT, with the Busuanga town government, has also established a Homestead Loans program for qualified homeowners of the municipality.

The loan would enable beneficiaries to carry out improvements on their houses and make them suitable lodging facilities for tourists and foreign tourists, using DOT standards as the yardstick.

Convicted OFW's wife laments gov't inaction

GUAGUA, Pampanga—The wife of overseas Filipino worker Reynaldo Cortez on Saturday criticized the government for not helping her husband who has been sentenced to death by beheading in Saudi Arabia.

Melody Cortez said in representation from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or Department of Social Welfare and Development had come to the aid of her husband or her family.

Reynaldo was convicted of killing a Pakistani co-worker in Saudi Arabia in 2002. He claimed the driver tried to force him to perform sexual acts.

The DFA, in a previous statement, said a had appealed for a reversal of the death sentence.

"It's as if they have given up on him," Melody said. She said she wouldn't not be able to bear hearing the announcement of her husband's execution date.

"I hope it does not come. Reynaldo's [our] children still need him. He worked abroad, endured the separation for them and their future," she said.

On Saturday, Migrante International and Cortez's family launched "International Day for Action by Reynaldo" as the family's home in Barangay San Pablo/Norte.

The day coincided for June 7, will coincide with Filipino Migrants' Day. Simultaneous prayer and candle-lighting vigils and protests rallies in 20 countries where Migrante is allied with "filipinos Filipino workers' organizations will be held on that day.

Maita Santiago, Migrante secretary general, said Cortez, a welder, was one of nine OFWs on death row in Saudi Arabia.

Santiago said at least 1,111 OFWs were languishing in Saudi Arabia jails, as shown by DFA records as of August 2004.

Borrowing money for an overseas call, Melody said she spoke with Rey Saturday. The conversation, it about 10 a.m., was tearful, she said.

Her husband, though, was in high spirits and was hopeful President Macapagal-Arroyo would be able to help him, like she helped Filipino workers in China in 2004.

"I'm pleading to you, Madame President, please give attention to my husband's plight. Don't expect him," Melody said in Kapampangan. Rosel B. Bruno, PIE Central Luzon Desk

RP still on trafficking list

By Veit Corteroza

THE PHILIPPINES remains on the US Department of State's "Tier 2" watch list of countries that "do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" in a report tracking the problem across the globe.

The state department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, released yesterday by the US Embassy, said that Philippines' inclusion in the watch list was based from the government's "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking."

It said the country was at once a "source, destination or a transit point" of trafficked men, women and children.

The US state department rated Cambodia, North Korea and Burma (Myanmar) as Asia's worst human trafficking violators in its review of 709 countries in combating trafficking in forced labor, prostitution and military service among others.

Nonetheless, mainly for child sex trafficking, Cambodia was lumped together with the landless states in the "Tier 3" blacklist of the report.

Cambodia's inclusion stemmed largely from its government's "complicity" in trafficking, said John Miller, the department's senior adviser against human trafficking.

A new alarming finding about the Philippines showed that it had become both a transit point and destination for trafficked women from China.

"The number of trafficking related prosecutions... remained low" despite the training of law enforcers on the anti-Trafficking Law and the justice department's designation of four public prosecutors to focus on child trafficking, the report said.

"There were no reported convictions under the Anti-Trafficking Law of 2003," said the report, the fifth to be issued by Washington and considered the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of individual countries against "modern-day slavery."

The report counted 28 TIP cases currently under investigation in the Philippines and at least 15 more cases being prosecuted by the Department of Justice under the Anti-Trafficking Law and statutes related to child abuse and illegal recruitment.

It largely blamed the country's poor showing on a "weak judiciary" and corruption among lawenforcers.

"Despite widespread allegations of law enforcement officials' complicity in trafficking, the government reported no prosecutions of trafficking-related corruption," the report said.

The government was, however, cited for its "modest efforts" to raise awareness of TIP and had up to 14 agencies working in coordination on "prevention-oriented" campaigns.

The report also noted a "decline" in illegal recruitment and recruitment violations, also thanks to the information campaign. With AFP

PPI says clients may get checks

PACIFIC Plans Inc. has announced it was releasing additional various support payments to its plan holders from the P950 million fund loaned to the beleaguered pre-need firm by Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, whose family controlled the company.

In a statement, PPI counsel Antonio C. Bruno said: "The move is consistent with our desire to address the needs of our unsuffering plan holders."

Bruno said PPI was releasing the funds despite the confusion caused by the Securities and Exchange Commission's revocation of the articles of incorporation of Lifemax Plans Inc., a newly formed company to which PPI had transferred its fixed payment education plans.

Recent pre-PPI plan holders unwilling of tuition payments thus unload your may get their checks at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City beginning June 7.

Solon: Keep GSIS funds in RP

A LAWMAKER yesterday said the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) should not pursue its plan of investing up to $250 million ($13 billion) of its funds abroad this year.

Camarines Sur Rep. Joseph Santiago said the state-run pension fund should need the more lucrative conditions before taking much-needed dollars out of the country since the economy was still vulnerable to a full-blown financial crisis.

"This is not exactly the best time for the GSIS, or for any public entity for that matter, to be taking badly needed foreign exchange out of the country," Santiago said.

"We need all the dollars we can lay our hands on at this very difficult time, considering the fundamental government has to refinance some $6 billion worth of debt obligations this year," he said.

Santiago was reacting to GSIS executive vice president Reynaldo Pelmoir's statement that the pension fund had decided to divert[sic] into the international market, initially earmarking at least $200 million for possible investment overseas this year.

Santiago warned the GSIS could avoid the wrong signals to foreign investors. Philip C. Tubeza

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INQUIRER

Art gives back hope to child offenders

By Edcor C. Tarnica Jr.

EL SERVILLO is having fun with friends, learning algebra and science, or helping in household chores.

But on 17, Kenneth (not his real name) has been in jail twice already.

Two years ago, he was arrested for illegal possession of firearms. He said a friend asked him to hide a homemade shotgun after a riot in their neighborhood.

He was freed after two months but was arrested again in 2004 for committing a hit knife. This time he was collared with his younger brother, Warren (not his real name).

Regaining lost childhood

Inside the Marikina City Jail, he and his brother are slowly trying to regain everything they lost outside, including their childhood.

The 82 minors in the city jail have a separate cell, adjacent to that of adults.

Under the law, minors should be under the care of the local social welfare and development department.

But due to budgetary constraints and lack of facilities, the minors were handed over to the city jail.

Warden Ret. Delamonte said, even with a separate cell, the minors were still exposed to adult suspects.

"The environment can affect them. The children will see the ways of the adults which they might adopt," Delamonte said.

Caravans addressed

But thanks to a movie crew on quarantine, his concerns are slowly being addressed.

Through the group, Kenneth has rediscovered his passion for drawing.

Recently, he showed his cell sketches of Japanese cartoon characters. He used no illustration board and ordinary black ballpen.

"Mayroon ako sa pagdo-drawing. Pero ngayon ko lang nakitang ito. I feel happy when I draw. This is where I found my talent," he said.

He first got into drawing as an elementary student in Batangas Concepcion. His friend taught him some styles, which he later shared with Warren.

Their father was killed when Kenneth was 12. He dropped out of high school because of poverty.

Now, he is one of the few minors in jail, according to Executive Assistant Dennis Miguel, 40, who has been building love and workshops that's every week.

"We're not any more parental as Amelia, but we have motivations. Many of them have potentials," Miguel said.

He started the workshops in November, on the invitation of the Council for Children in Conflict with the Law, with several other artists. Now, he goes to the jail alone.

"Nakatutuwa ako noong una. Mga grosa sila. Baka sasaksak sila. Pero kapag nakausap mo sila, talagang lalabas ang tunoyuhan, ipinamalas nila sa mararating ilagay. I want to become a fine artist because they are prisoners. But once you talk to them, you will feel their innocence and ignorance," Miguel said.

Bag of candies

Last Wednesday, the lessons saw Miguel in the jail with a bag of candies and friend he bought with his own money.

Through the workshops were difficult financially, because he had to buy the materials, he said it was rewarding to see the children's joy and happy.

The artwork were last week which he exhibited inside the jail the artwork his students had produced.

The pieces showed different emotions.

A drawing of an ugly woman was captioned: "Mother ko yun. Hindi niya ako dinadalaw (This is my mother. She does not visit me)."

Another inmate drew the face of Jesus Christ.

"Ang hirap ko, makita yung feelings nila. Minsan ang galit, ibinuwal rin ang ambi yung ulan ay, minsan di nga ayaw ko ako ba they feel. Many of them were angry," Miguel said.

Kenneth developed new friendships because of his passion for drawing.

He saw Mario, 19, drawing when he dropped by their cell months ago.

They became good friends and Mario started teaching Kenneth new techniques.

He also gave Reinnelle a drawing of what Mario said was a dancer with sharp teeth and blood dripping from his mouth.

The doctor had been shot in the forehead.

The horrifying drawing which Mario said was just the product of his imagination, hangs at the foot of Kenneth's bed.

Mario gave it to him as a token of friendship.

As the workshops continued, the emotions in the drawings changed.

"We saw anger in their drawings before. Now we see pain inside," counsel chair Shalena Ilaire said.

Government and police officials on Marikina City held a number of meetings but put to come up with a program for the minors.

Longing in the eyes

Ilaire, representing the private sector, visited the jail and saw the longing in the eyes of the jailed children.

The concept was born.

The group holds activities to make the jail every Monday.

The first Monday of the month is usually devoted to creative workshops. The second Monday is for Bible studies.

The third Monday is for birthdays, and the fourth is for a simple party to celebrate birthdays.

"Minors are not supposed to be incarcerated. They need the attention of someone," she said.

The jail on the fifth floor of the new Justice Hall is about compared to other prisons.

The Department of Health cited the 1,500-square-meter jail as the healthiest in the country in the last two years, Delamonte said.

Food is decent

Though the population was slightly higher than the 500 percent capacity the institute was still manageable. The food was also decent, Kenneth said.

But the main problem was boredom.

"Wala tayo ring mauhol ng buong araw kundi kumain, matulog at umidlip. Or a hearing when they have one and I see my cousins [outside]," Kenneth said.

Boredom led Kenneth to get his first tattoos.

Branching the urine make a tattoo for an hour using ballpen, he said.

Another problem was depression.

Some minors had been in prison much longer than the actual jail sentence if they were waiting for the results of the charges against them, Miguel said.

Small-paced justice

He blamed the small-paced justice system.

But the council is now working for the release of the minors to the custody of their parents during trial, instead of being in jail.

"Our objective is to limit any minors in jail," Ilaire said.

The council already obtained the release of 26 minors since November, she added.

The group also got a donor to pay for the construction of a toilet for the ninth floor of the new building.

This was important because, with the new toilet, the children would be moved to the upper floor, away from the adults, Ilaire said.

Meanwhile, Kenneth tries to relieve his boredom through his drawing, while seeking hope inside his cell.

DETAINED young legal offenders find expression in art (right) and drawing, which done their feelings toward their parents, people around them and views about life.

Police sweep crime elements to ensure safety of students

By Tina G. Santos, Margosa C. Ortiz and Nancy C. Carvajal

MANILA mandated National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Vidal Doroid said his men would be monitoring pregame strikes on criminal elements to ensure the safety of students returning to school.

Doroid said they had been conducting intensive intelligence gathering on notorious street crime syndicates like the "salot" and Alvon gangs.

However, he also urged school administrators to coordinate with the police for additional security around campuses.

At least 5,000 policemen will be deployed in key areas of Metro Manila when school opens tomorrow, he said.

The NCRPO chief spoke at a forum on school opening safety organized by the Chinese Filipino Business Club Inc.

Intelligence gathering and preemptive strikes will go hand-in-hand with increased police visibility in areas where students are vulnerable to street crimes. These areas include the perennial favorites, malls, railway stations, the University Belt area in Sampaloc and Mendiola, and in Quezon City, specifically schools near Kamuning Avenue.

Meanwhile, Manila city and school officials yesterday assured parents and students that all measures were in place in time for the school opening.

"Our primary concern is the safety of the students," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

The mayor said police and barangay patrols would be deployed around schools, colleges and universities in Manila. He also ordered the Western Traffic Enforcement Office and the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau to field a sufficient number of traffic enforcers to ensure the smooth flow of vehicular traffic at the end of vehicles is expected to increase during school days.

The head of City Schools superintendent Ms. Lizzie Quebidoz earlier reported to Atienza that officials of the city's 71 public elementary schools and 32 public high schools were sending out their letters to parents ready for the reopening of classes.

Aside from public schools, the city has at least 29 big private schools, 49 private elementary schools and 37 private high schools. Manila also has the most number of colleges and universities in the country.

School authorities have also been ordered by the mayor to pay particular attention to toilets, making sure schools have an adequate supply of water.

The mayor also asked the school officials to inspect school canteen facilities and make sure they comply with food safety standards.

In northern Metro Manila, 1,300 uniformed policemen and local multiplexes would be deployed in every school and municipal police terminal.

The chief of the 13th subunit and 14 augment and his reminds in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela, and the town of Navotas, a maximum of three lawyers will be assigned.

"The safety of the schoolchildren, especially those from the Chinese schools, are of primary concern," said Supt. Leo Garcia, Caloocan police director.

Meanwhile, Las Piñas Mayor Mel T. Aguilar ordered that no child of school age would be denied access to public education in his city.

Las Piñas subsidizes 85 day-care centers, 16 public grade schools, seven high schools and a college. With Mike Alvarado, reporter

A BOY takes the assessment exam for Grade One pupils at the Lupang Pangako Elementary School in Quezon City.

READY TO FIRE
Actor Eddie Garcia gives a female journalist tips on holding and firing a gun during a firearm-handling seminar he sponsored at the Camp Crame firing range.

24-hour monitoring in Makati

By Sara V. Quismundo

PLANNED to be an all-seeing sentinel, the emergency response center will soon be set up atop the 22-floor Makati City Hall building to watch over the city round the clock.

The local government of Makati has begun working on the city's own Central Command Center, an all-in-one emergency dispatch center that would bring together Makati's police, medical and fire emergency response teams.

Makati's own 911 system

"Think of it as Makati's version of 911. It will be one office to field the police, traffic, fire department, and rescue personnel to critical areas," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in a statement, referring to the famed emergency number in the United States.

While the command center has yet to get its own quick-dial number, City Hall said it already started laying down a system that would efficiently integrate the city's security and emergency units.

The Makati Central Command Center would be equipped with high-technology computer equipment and television monitors to show real-time images of the city's major intersections and vital establishments.

Video monitoring

A closed-circuit video system, set to be operational within the year, consists of 16 traffic and security cameras installed at major avenues within the city's central business district, will be linked to the command center's system, said Joey Salgado, Makati Information and Community Relations Department head.

A dispatch system is also being planned, as administrators of the would-be command center are working at connecting into a single network existing communications lines of the Makati Police Department, Makati Central Fire Station, the Makati Rescue, and the city's Department of Public Safety.

Besides improving the city's security and public safety, Binay said, the project is also aimed at attracting more investors, particularly call centers, to the city.

Wooing investors

"[Makati] will be able to secure its position as the financial and commercial capital of the country, and as the main train airline new investors from emerging industries," said the mayor.

The city is now host to more than 30 call centers, most of which are located in the city's business district. Most call centers operate 24 hours a day, catering to international clients from different time zones, call center employees work both daytime and night-to-morning shifts.

The command center will thus give employees a more secure place to work in, said Binay.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teodoro S. Melendrez

DAVIDILLA celebrates after crossing the finish line of the 9th stage mountain court from Baguio to Angeles City. BEN CABALLO

Davadilla aggressive to the end

By Hans Anthony Reyes

ANGELES CITY—Warren Davadilla put an exclamation point to an impressive campaign by capturing the ninth and penultimate stage as per the Golden Tour MTB 08 championship beyond everybody else's reach yesterday.

Shot sprawled, spoke-ring fashion on the hilly tarmac, it seemed as per the title strung, I dared sound so many silent to mean that Davadilla, who aranted the Ninth line in front of the Holy Rosary Parish Church all by his lonesome for his third stage win in this 10-stage Tour presented by Sunkrisp.

Only the top three in the individual race will win cash prizes pegged at P150,000, P75,000 and P50,000.

Barring any disaster, the 30-year-old tiller of the 1998 Centennial Tour is all set to pick up his second Tour crown under the Head hat, a 76.8-km criterium race around Rizal Park billed as the Mastery 8 Pangilinan stage in honor of the PLDT boss. The leg will start and finish at the Quezon Memorial Park in front of the Shrine church.

"Ngayon kahit tanong niya ako sa interview, hanin papalad din ako, dapat lang. Dito na ako nagsimula [sa bundok] eh, I will be there," added Davadilla.

But there's no leaving behind Davadilla in the criterium race because that is missing his points as a Philippine team rides in the morning Sportsbreak Action Games. He won the silver medal in the road race two years ago in the Vietnam SEAG.

Davadilla, who grabbed the yellow jersey after winning the second stage from Subic to Tagaytay, completed his dream pursuit by riding and then making up for lost time.

With Nos. 6 Cali 45 teammates hedging down down the pace of the main peloton that included Feliciano and Tongcilig, Davadilla joined a breakaway group in Dinalupihan before spurting to Floors that gained in the lead 5:00 minutes to run the win.

Davadilla was ably supported in the lead pack by teammate Darwin Hierada, who signaled him to go as it when the lead group were negotiating a roughroad in Bataan.

It was no wonder that Cali 45 wrapped up the team championship and the P150,000 top prize with a haul of over 50 minutes over Sunkrisp, which carried for P100,000. Motor Uang was third and bagged P100,000.

Two riders linked to finish.

Riders Drag under Anthony Mercado for the title runner of the Cinderella Brandy team, which also got in Romero, Farber with a broken right hand. Another newcomer, Jason Head of Cantores, called it a day in the final seconds.

Go 21 captain Mike Ramos and Wa Rubber Bend Valdez had a clean fall plunge to La Union, but were overtaken in the flat finish of Sto. Tomas.

Davadilla finished the 134-km stage in three hours, 42 minutes and 1:44 seconds. Three 21 minutes of Marco Uang came in second, 11 seconds behind while turning along Hump Hardin of Cantores, Silverio Dungaran of Tsunami and Marlon Servano of Cantores Brandy.

Davadilla later vented his wife, who is expecting their second child, to prepare dinner and a sauna bath before proceeding to his residence in Mabalacat City for a well-deserved rest.

Bata, Taiwanese forge duel

EFREN "Bata" Reyes of the Philippines and Fang Cheng Chun of Chinese Taipei set up an early clash as they breezed through the opening race rounds of the final leg of the Sun Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour at the Robinsons Galleria Ruals Hall late Friday evening.

Reyes scored the opening leg victory on the Chi Pin of Hong Kong, 9-1, while Yang subdued Li Ho Hsiu of China, 9-4, in the second round to arrange the quarterfinals match in the event organized by ESPN STAR Sports.

After losing (and 1-1, Reyes, who topped the second leg to Asharra, ramps the rest eight racks to close out the encounter, the delight of the hometown crowd. The 58-year-old pool legend opened up his campaign earlier in the day with a 9-4 clubbing of Lucky Chi Hong of Thailand.

Set to be overdone, Bata also flashed the clutch form after claiming six of the last seven racks against the Chinese. The Bambang leg champion began his bid for a second consecutive crown this year with a 9-4 triumph over Shah Hamat of India.

Singapore leg winner Candy Jellet of the Philippines also moved into the quarterfinals following his 9-2 drubbing of Japanese Satoshi Shimoboto. The 33-year-old will next take on 16-year-old Wu Chia Ching of Chinese Taipei. The Taiwanese pool prodigy topped compatriot Chao Fong Pang, 9-8. It was the third time this year that Wu beat two-time World Pool champion Chao.

Former winner also joined fellow Filipinos Reyes and Villa in the second tier as he thumped Jeong Young Hwan of Korea, 9-2. Alcano will clash against Chang Jui-Mei of Chinese Taipei. The 2004 World Pool runner-up worked overtime Chin Hong Hong, 9-8.

It was a clear method by one major upset as number two-seed and former world number one Francisco "Django" Bustamante continued his bid for his first drought as he fell to Penang Mohamad Mudzaffa, 9-5.

Six more seeds face another Filipino Antonio Lining, losing because the fourth Filipino to move on to the quarterfinals after tallying from 5-4 down to trounce Ko Pong-Jun of Vietnam, 9-6.

Now in its third year, the Sun Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour is offering a total prize money purse of $50,000 up for grabs at this weekend's final stop at Manila. The champion will get the top prize of $10,000. The main draw includes 32 top Asian players from 13 countries.

Last year saw the 30-year-old Reyes rule three of the Tour's five legs. The player known as the "Magician" took home the top titles in Singapore, the Chi Hsiao City and Taipei. Efren Reyes also claimed the Bambang leg, while Lee Vann Corteza of the Philippines triumphed in Manila.

For more information on the Tour, please check out www.asian9ballbeer.com. For the latest schedules and program information on ESPN STAR Sports, catch us on the air at www.espnstarsports.com.

The Sun Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour is sanctioned by the main Parker Billiard Union and co-organized by ESPN STAR Sports' Event Management Group (EMG) and Pepsi Sports. Sun Miguel Beer is the title sponsor for the Tour.

Besides the total prize money of $100,000, the top 16 players on the Tour Order of Merit every year will directly qualify into the World Pool Championships.

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Lomibao: I'm doing my job, even if bishop doesn't think so

FORT DELFINAR, Baguio City—Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, has asked Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to withdraw the control of marijuana over the police should hand executives fail to stop "pursuing" in their areas.

Martial in the PMP was down because almost every police officer had become vulnerable to charges that they tolerated pursuing. Lomibao said here after he was honored by the Philippine Military Academy yesterday.

"Negotiations are being waived," he said, when asked how the pursuing count survey had affected the police.

"If there are malicious implications against your honor, your integrity, then that somehow affects your work. As I have said, we are trained to adjust to criticism," Lomibao said.

"I think I am doing my job very well, even if the archbishop [Ateneo's think so]," he said, referring to statements made by Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz who said Lomibao had failed to stop pursuing in the country.

Cruz also chastised Lomibao for giving cynics the ammunition by citing marijuana' job-loss and a reduced police budget.

"We have to continue doing our job not only in the campaign against illegal gambling but also in other areas of [peace and order]... because we cannot compromise [on any area of concern] while prepositioning the other concerns of the PNP," Lomibao said.

But he said the blame should not fall squarely on the shoulders of policemen because "masses are equally liable" for the continuing operation of pursuing.

Abra's example

Lomibao's proposal was inspired by the government action against the may crop of Abra.

"Abra is an area of special concern [but] I am looking at Abra as a model, because it is only in Abra where the Senator-Philippine Commission took back the deputization of weapons there [which granted them provisional authority over the local police]. Nowhere in the Philippines has this happened," he said.

The suppression of the masses' deputization was in response to the political violence that had followed Abra.

"We are looking at [Abra] as a model we can apply to the issue of pursuing. I have referred to many chiefs of police [for failing to stop pursuing]... so I am looking at chief executives of those towns because they are equally responsible," Lomibao told reporters.

Weak evidence

A former Baguio prosecutor revealed last week that many cases against pursuing operators had to be dismissed due to weak evidence seen to the courts by police and local officials.

If there is a prima-facie finding on final sight how Baguio's anti-gambling crusade, Councilor Arthelo Indiquilla, the former city prosecutor, said it was the weak evidence packed together in pursuing cases.

According to a report sent to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, 94 suspected pursuing lair collectors were undergoing trial for collecting bets but the prosecutor's office "had no record of convictions from earlier cases it had prosecuted.

Indiquilla said he was compelled to file many of the pursuing cases that reached his office then, "even when the evidence was weak."

Many of those cases were eventually dismissed, he said.

"There were times the affidavits were too substantial, and yet I made it a point to instruct the prosecutors in charge of the cases to find a way to file them," he said.

"The compelling law would make the gambler equally liable for illegal gambling, but no gambler has been charged, he said.

Legalize jueteng!

Sen. Richard Gordon, during a recent chat here, said making jueteng legal might be a prudent solution to the problem.

But Lomibao said legalizing jueteng operations "is like admitting that we are not capable of stopping" the illegal numbers game.

"There are some issues that have to be addressed; it has been treated about that jueteng has become a culture [and] it has socioeconomic implications. It is a moral issue. It is a law enforcement issue. So with all these dimensions... [proposals to legalize jueteng] should be studied very, very carefully," he said.

"If we say no to legalization, we are also closing our eyes to the people who have been displaced by the gains. [For the police], there is a law which punishes the operators of jueteng, so [for now] we just implement it," he said.

Don't blame PNP

The PNP should not take all the blame for the proliferation of jueteng, Chief Supt. Florante Bagtas of the PNP's anti-illegal gambling task force said Friday.

During a forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila, Bagtas said jueteng was a "multi-dimensional issue," and that other institutions should move to prevent people from participating it.

"I believe jueteng is not just a police problem. The family, church, school—everybody can help us. They can help by telling people not to participate in jueteng. If nobody will bet on the game, what else can the collectors do?" Bagtas said. Marvin Cabreros and Leila B. Salaverria

Lomibao . . .

Front page A1

cent of the Philippine Military Academy yearbook marked a rite performed by cadets here.

Unfortunately, the 20-minute skit not only made fun of the jueteng scandal, it was also about a character named "Cadet Andok" who fled the academy and his responsibilities as a class leader because he felt suffocated by PMA rules.

In attendance were PMA officials and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Lomibao, a member of PMA Maragtas Class of 1972, visited the academy to preside over the promotion of Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, a member of PMA Magiliw Class of 1975.

The PMA cadets' Praxis or Company presentation Sunday, hoping to lighten the officials' concerns about corruption in the military and the police, a PMA official said.

"Cadets have been asking us about the real score on jueteng. They tell us PMA graduates who work for government are forced to choose between what is legal and what is not instead of what is right or wrong, when dealing with guys [over the gambling]," the official said.

Third Class Cadet Mark de los Santos played Andok, a fictitious class honor delegate commander of the PMA corps of cadets. Santos delivered his lines with a flash bumper accent.

While the choir is sung, "Tis sweet/ Tis not pretext," a spoof of the song "Before Shrill" by pop-punk rock band Simple Plan, Andok got on a bicycle and left the academy. He would end up in jail, nearly executed by a sentry that misunderstood little of the PMA's commitment to courage, integrity and loyalty.

The skit also poked fun at the travails of retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller. Out on a date, Andok tried to pay for dinner, using a "purchase card," which he described as an instrument that could be converted into cash worth five million.

In one scene, Andok, wearing large shoulder ornaments over his chest grays, stood at attention in front of Lomibao and said with reservation: "Gambling is prohibited in the PMA, especially jueteng."

PMA officials noted that the PNP chief laughed at what officials described as "tender humor."

The lesson, according to the scenarios, was that PMA rules and regulations were designed to make cadets, like the fictitious Andok, more honorable.

The skit also revealed the cadets' frustrations over the scandals' negative effect on the image of PMA graduates.

In one scene, while Andok was being prosecuted for "illegal gambling," among other crimes, he demanded to be executed than face the indignity of going to prison.

"You have abused my pain, my dignity and my honor, Your Honor," he said, while invoking the Bible, the Constitution and the Revised Penal Code.

In the end, Andok was spared from the electric chair by a member of the PMA military police (MP), who dragged him back to the academy.

Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, commandant of cadets, told Lomibao that the skit was one of several performances that the cadets had been rehearsing for the Hundred Nights Show, the annual PMA vaudeville presentation during Christmas.

He said PMA officials had nothing to do with the preparation of the skit.

Despite the cadets' frequent digs at jueteng, Lomibao seemed happy about his PMA visit.

"A visit to the academy is always invigorating and inspiring. I like to draw inspiration from the young as when I go back to Manila, and confront reality. I'll see how much strength, I can have more inspiration," he said.

"The youth always inspire me, because youth means idealism," Lomibao told reporters.

Sunday SPORTS

KENNETH San Andres steers Honduras to its high-flying acts.

Father and son rule motocross

PETRIAS rider Jun-Jun Jun Andres and his multi-titled son Kenneth ruled their respective divisions in the 2.0 Grs. Live Filipinotic International Motocross in the Capitol Complex, Cainta, PIL Convention this recently.

The young Jun Andres, the 2004 Rookie of the Year of the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA), was unmatched in the Expert Open Production category where he humiliated rest finds to clock victorious in the morning and afternoon heats to dominate his duties as the country's most promising rider.

The Valenzuela City native, who is also an eight-time National Pioneer and Mini-Class Champion, now rookie-mates in the Expert Open Production, thus his rivals realize him to as much as an easier hop in both heats of the event organized by Guerrero Filipinotic.

Another Jun-Jun duo grabbed a piece of the spotlight, cracking all of his rivals in the binoculars' distance, to draw the screaming throng of thickness, when his young son got his gates.

The Jun Andres riders are hosted by Cabos Motors, Oakley KTM, Bridgestone, FLC Helmet, Redbull, Mister Dee, PRO, Sea, JBL Motorcycles Shop and CCC Pipes.

Montaña clinches title berth; Magnolia alive

[illegible] Ateneo's Rajonis

By Jaroslaw W. Playa

IT looks more than inevitable before the Montaña Awards claimed the first finals berth in the PBA Unity Cup yesterday at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Nabbs an easy remaining, Granny Goose's Chico-Lanots flubbed his free throws to Dr. Alvin Jadilon in a 86-84 victory and advanced to the finals for the second straight time.

In the other semifinal series, Magnolia Ice Cream downed a close-down match for the other 8-with next after crippling Makwan Fruits, 89-72.

Lanots entered a gangster at Dr. Jadilon but drew a foul from Awards guard Pedrito Baguion for a chance to forge an extra point. But the pressure apparently proved too much for the Montaña playmaker as his shoddy attempt sent to setup spirited semifinal series.

"That was a lucky win," said Jadon, whose Awards failed to score a field goal in the last six minutes. "I give credit to Granny Goose. They were the game underdogs in the series, but we had a difficult time establishing."

Al Vergara shot 13 points, for his fourth, who ran pointing for Jadilon's block. Jadon. Veteran guard Mon Caraperas chipped in 12 points after a sub-par game 2 performances.

Arnulad Jandick, Dennis Miranda and Mel Robinson led Magnolia's charge with 15 points apiece.

"The players wanted to show that they were to be in the finals that's why they were so prepared," said Magnolia coach Jay Rank.

Consistency problems continued to found Makwan team, now Anthony Washington, who finished still lonely seven assaults.

The Eastern continued to spring surprises on the hosts as the local favorites' strikes returned the ride at least his slim 84-83.

Vergara got the knockdown on the scoreboard after nailing his free throws, but Allie Grandia and JR Quinahan's free goes had Eastern pocket the lead for the first time, 86-84, 1:22 remaining.

Quinahan was limited to only eight rebounds after scoring 17 points in Granny Goose's Game 2 win.

Vergara keyed the Awards' 41-37 advantage in the third quarter, but the Warriors managed to keep up behind Salgado, who shot seven straight points to close the period at 48-46.

The Warriors were made only four of their 12 free throws in the final quarter.

Top scorers:

MONTAÑA AWARDS: Vergara 13, Lacuesta 12, Jandick, Salcedo 8, Ingan 6, Espejo 5, Baguion 2, Jose Garcia 2, Miranda 2, Quinsay 2.

MAGNOLIA ICE CREAM: 15, Quinahan 15, Jandick 15, Robinson 15, Mel 15, Miranda 15, Salgado 12, Salcedo 12, Garcia 7, Quinsay 7, Cardona 5, Ingan 4, Alcantara 2, Quinsay 2, Espejo 2, Baguion 2, Jose Garcia 2, Miranda 2, Quinsay 2.

Quarterscores: 1st 21-20, 2nd 41-37, 3rd 48-46, 4th 86-84.

Scoring by:

MONTAÑA AWARDS: Vergara 13, Lacuesta 12, Jandick, Salcedo 8, Ingan 6, Espejo 5, Baguion 2, Jose Garcia 2, Miranda 2, Quinsay 2.

MAGNOLIA ICE CREAM: 15, Quinahan 15, Jandick 15, Robinson 15, Mel 15, Miranda 15, Salgado 12, Salcedo 12, Garcia 7, Quinsay 7, Cardona 5, Ingan 4, Alcantara 2, Quinsay 2, Espejo 2, Baguion 2, Jose Garcia 2, Miranda 2, Quinsay 2.

Scores: 19-19, 20-20, 20-20, 20-20

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

US admits urine splashed on Koran

WASHINGTON—US military officials acknowledged that a copy of the Koran was splashed with urine at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp for terror suspects, but said none of the guards at the facility flushed the Muslim holy book down the toilet.

Among other newly disclosed incidents cited in a Pentagon report on the mishandling of the sacred text at the prison were reports that a detainee's Koran was deliberately kicked and another's was stepped on.

On March 29, a detainee complained to guards that "urine came through an air vent" and splashed on him and his Koran. A guard admitted he was at fault, but the report, which offered new details about Koran mishandling incidents, did not make clear whether the guard intended the result.

The findings, released after several features hours Friday evening, are among the results of an investigation last month by Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, the commander of the detention center in Cuba. The investigation was triggered by a Newsweek magazine report—later retracted—that a US soldier had flushed one camp detainee's Koran down a toilet.

The story stirred worldwide controversy, and the Bush administration blamed it for deadly demonstrations in Afghanistan.

In another confirmed incident cited in the report, water balloons thrown by prison guards caused an unspecified number of Korans to get wet, and in a confirmed but ambiguous case, a two-word obscenity was written in English on the inside cover of a Koran.

Hood said in a written statement released with the new details that his investigation "revealed a consistent, documented policy of respectful handling of the Koran dating back 2 1/2 years."

Lawrence Di Rita, chief spokesperson for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, did not address the confirmed incidents of mishandling the Muslim holy book. Reached while traveling with Rumsfeld in Asia, he said US Southern Command policy calls for "serious, respectful and appropriate" handling of the Koran.

"The Hood inquiry would appear to affirm that policy," Di Rita said.

Hood said that of nine mishandling cases that were studied in detail by reviewing thousands of pages of written records, five were confirmed. He could not determine conclusively whether the other four took place.

In one of the unconfirmed cases, a detainee in April 2003 complained to FBI and other interrogators that guards "constantly defile the Koran." The detainee alleged that in one instance a female military guard threw a Koran into a bag of wet towels to anger another detainee, and he also alleged that another guard said the Koran belonged in the toilet and that guards were ordered to do these things. AP

Syria test-fires 3 Scud missiles

WASHINGTON — The United States confirmed Friday that Syria had carried out new missile tests and said they were flush-proof Damascus was "out of step" with moves toward peace in the Middle East.

The New York Times, quoting Israeli military officials, reported that Syria had test-fired three Scud missiles a week ago. It said one of them broke up over Turkey but caused no injuries.

"We're aware of the missiles that were launched, and I think that I'll just leave it at that," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan, declining to comment further.

The state department's new spokesperson Sean McCormack said of the reported test that "we have information that indicates that it did occur" although he could not confirm a missile hit Turkey.

"And I would just add that it's one more example of Syria being out of step with what's going on in the rest of the region," McCormack told his first daily briefing.

He said the United States had long accused Syria of seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and the ability to deliver them, while countries like Iraq and Lebanon were focused on political and economic development.

"I just think that this type of step is— when you look at the rest of what's going on in the region and the efforts that people are taking to try to develop a more peaceful, a more stable, a more harmonious region—it's just a discordant note."

The Times quoted the Israelis as saying there was nothing unusual about Syria's first missile tests since 2001 other than the strike in Turkey but they made them public because they were puzzled by the US silence.

The officials told the daily that the tests involving an older Scud B with a range of 300 km and new Scud D with a range of 700 km were part of a Syrian missile development project using North Korean technology.

The missiles, they said, were designed to deliver an heavy chemical weapons. Asked about a North Korean connection, McCormack said, "I don't have any information I can share with you on that." AFP

19 killed in latest round of unchecked attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Roadside bombs, including a bicycle bomb, dotted the latest round of unchecked violence as security forces pressed on with an operation to root out insurgents in Baghdad, sources said.

Six people, including a child and two Iraqi soldiers, were killed in several attacks north of the capital early Friday, security forces said.

In Samarra, insurgents took on a police-and-army patrol in a firefight that killed the child and one other person, while 10 Iraqis were killed and 12 wounded late Thursday in an attack north of Baghdad, the US military said.

"There was a suicide car bombing outside a home near Suleiman Pak on Thursday. Two Iraqis were killed and 12 wounded," said Major Pete Fraser.

An Iraqi translator working for the US military was also gunned down near Suleiman Pak, police said.

In southern Iraq, gunmen killed Shiite cleric Ali Abdel Hussein in Basra, on Wednesday night, he said.

"Two men armed with pistols shot me dead," said a mosque in a southern neighborhood, Muhammad Ali Abdel Hussein said. "I chased them and they shot at me, too."

In Baghdad, Ibrahim Ali al-Qubisi, a Shiite political leader from the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq — the largest party in the government — died of wounds sustained in a shooting earlier in the week.

Violence in the ethnically tense northern city of Irbil in Kurdish territory, with the assassination of Sabah Mohammed Ali Goro, Irbil's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) governor, police said.

His death followed that of Sheikh Nadhir Goro, Ahmed Talabi, al-Basra, Jassim who was murdered in Kirkuk late in May in an attack claimed by the al-Qaeda-linked militant group Ansar al-Sunna.

Infiltrated by Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Turkmen, Kirkuk was heavily contested under the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Rivals now want the city to be the capital of their autonomous region, while Arabs complain of harassment since Saddam's fall.

Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr called on Iraqis to condemn the European threat and reject federalism, which he said would divide the country.

Speaking on behalf of Sadr, Sheikh Jalah al-Ghazli told Muslim faithful in Iran, south of Baghdad, there is the option "to, you don't, ratified constitution so-drawn-up, ratified country and ratified continental market despite the fact that they are different currents."

Although he did not run in Iran's elections, Sadr recently resurfaced from his political shadows and is seeking to empower himself as the man who can pull his country back from the brink of chaos.

In Baghdad, Iraqi authorities lauded Operation Lightning, designed to assert insurgents in the city, saying on Thursday that 700 had been arrested and 2,250 killed in five days of operations.

Despite this, three explosions from mortar attacks shook the capital around noon Friday. One security source said the shells came from a predominantly Sunni area and that one had landed near the Lebanese Embassy.

Violence killed almost 700 Iraqis throughout the country in May.

Up to 40,000 extra troops and police personnel were to take part in the sweeps, but were not as yet clear evidence in Baghdad's streets.

Hundreds of Saudi Muslims are involved in the city after Friday prayers against US border detention this week of a prominent political leader. Some imams slammed the Baghdad security operation in their sermons.

The protesters chanted until 1:30 p.m. and waved Iraqi flags, Islamic Party banners and signs denouncing the actions of party leader Ibrahim Jaafari. Armed and the three were on Monday selling a "American terrorism."

All four were later released.

"To those American forces," another banner proclaimed, saying the troops had crossed the road to Anbar.

An official from the Mordhia Oil Co. said that a halt to Iraqi exports to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan was the result of an established shopping schedule and not the work of terrorists. AFP

RINGS OF SATURN

In this fabulous close-up image from Nasa's Cassini spacecraft released June 1, the spacecraft's power shows its through rupture of the A, B and C rings of the planet. Eastern shows rings to hot has some glimpses of shadows of the very same rings cast upon the planet's atmosphere. Near the top, shadows cast by ringlets in the Cassini Division (center) twist about the sphere together.

REUTERS

TOURS & PILGRIMAGES

GO FOR QUALITY

Adam's

Pedophile or Peter Pan? Jury begins deliberations on Jacko trial

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Michael Jackson's fate is now in the hands of the eight women and four men of the jury, who began their deliberations shortly after noon on Friday with the charge of abusing relentless by a prosecutor and pedophile or Peter Pan.

Lawyers for Jackson and for the state ended their closing arguments on Friday with two videotapes presenting him in starkly different lights. The defense showed a video clip from an interview in which Jackson proclaimed his innocent love of children and complained that he is maligned and misunderstood by other adults. "Sometimes what you do," Jackson said in his familiar, tenor, "doesn't always come out, some times spirited pro-ceeds-ceeds is being you down."

The other tape, shown by the prosecution for the second time in a week, shows the accuser, then 13, tearfully telling a police interviewer how Jackson served him alcohol and molested him in bed as Jackson's bewildered mother looked on.

"You have just witnessed the worst cross-examination of this young man's life," said Ronald J. Zonen, the deputy district attorney who delivered the closing argument for the prosecution. "This is an absolutely sincere revelation by a child about a man he had been close to."

Outside the courthouse, devoted fans grown somewhat thin cards as the denouement of the 14-week trial approaches. On Friday morning, about 70 fans stood outside the fence ringing the courthouse, waving re-porters and chanting, "Michael's innocent." They cheered as Jackson left the courthouse after cross accompanied by his parents and his brothers Jermaine and Randy. On most days, classified Jackson fans showed up.

New York Times News Service

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Celebrities call on G8 to dig Africa out of debt

LONDON — Celebrities from South African icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu to supermodel Claudia Schiffer are taking part in a lobby-selling campaign urging the world's richest nations to work together to dig Africa out of debt.

The open-letters, aimed at next week's meeting in London of finance ministers from the Group of Eight industrialized nations, and the G8 summit in Scotland from July 6-8, will appear in newspapers in Germany, France, Britain and the United States.

"A child dies every three seconds from extreme poverty. The world's greatest minds have figured out how to stop this. Children people across the world are demanding action," says the letter signed by a host of famous Good celebrities and stars.

The campaign, urging donor nations to cancel the debts of 18 fundraising Africa at the same time as boosting aid and ending trade rules that penalize the world's poorest continent, is organized by Global Call to action against Poverty (GCAP).

"The G8 is the opportunity for leaders to demonstrate — not to mere our words — their commitment to fighting poverty. We will be reminding leaders that anything less than this will be failure," GCAP's Coordinator Dessa said, announcing the campaign.

GCAP — which includes the Make Poverty History movement that is planning a major march through Edinburgh on July 2 — aimed to be the world's largest campaigning coalitions involving charities, NGOs, faith groups and trade unions.

It has signed up celebrities including campaigners Bono and Bono Robinson, actors Georgia Dawson and Dan Aykroyd and musicians John Peters and James Arthurs.

The move came in the same week as Tech cosine Bob Geldof announced a series of concerts to take place on July 2 to put pressure on the G8 leaders just hours before their summit.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has made helping Africa one of the central pillars of Britain's year-long G8 presidency. Reuters

CHILDREN OF CHARLES! A new book has come out this week in Germany with the cooperation of three siblings who say they are the out-of-wedlock children of Charles A. Lindbergh, famous for their November 1927 photo, the first plane to fly solo across the Atlantic. Astrid Bonstedt, Dirk Mostmeyer and David Mostmeyer worked with biographer Rudolf Schmerk on the 240-page "The Double Life of Charles A. Lindbergh," published by Bonte-Verlag, a division of Random House.

Laughing out loud burns calories

ABUDHABI—If you want to burn a few extra calories, laugh.

It's no match for running, rowing or pumping iron but scientists said on Saturday laughing out loud for 10-15 minutes a day burns 10-40 calories, the amount in a small piece of chocolate, depending on your mate's body weight.

"We calculated that this is equal to 2 kg a year if you do it every day," Dr. Manny Noshenchi, of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, told reporters on the sidelines of the conference on human muscle energy in cities in Israel.

"We discovered that laughter produces energy," he said.

They recruited 100 students who were friends or couples and measured the energy expenditure of each pair while they watched television comedy clips in a laboratory chamber.

The students were encouraged to measure how much energy the laughter produced while a heart monitor also tracked their heart rate.

Noshenchi said his team did not tell the students, who were advised not to talk or move, the goal of the experiment.

"It's not easy to catch genuine laughter because if you tell people you are going to measure laughter they will force the laugh," said Noshenchi.

To measure the students' resting metabolic rate the scientists showed them scenes of the English country side. Reuters

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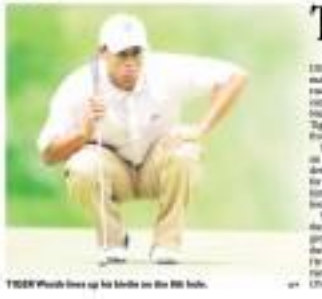

TIGER Woods lines up his birdie on the 8th hole.

Tiger moves up; Jack walks awa

DUBLIN, Ohio—Jeff Sluman remained atop the leaderboard after two rounds of the Memorial on an emotional Friday in which Jack Nicklaus gave a departing hint and Tiger Woods averted among the frontrunners.

Sluman, whom Nicklaus picked as an assistant captain in the Ian Presidents Cup, his ailing shot that dropped for birdie and a 7-under 137 that gave him a one-shot lead over Woods and four others heading into the weekend.

Woods was tied for the lead along the back after until missing the 17th green and making his only bogey of the tournament, dropping him to 69. He was joined by Jonathan Kaye, Brandt Brauer, Lucas Glover and Nick O'Hern, the Australian fifty who beat Woods in the second round at the Mauna Play Championship.

Still, the day belonged to Nicklaus, who gathered both hands to one last for a farewell for as the second as he walked off the 18th green at Muirfield Village.

He played what might be his final 18 PGA Tour event on American soil, and it wasn't an unhappy walk home to end. He threw that refused around the course he helped design were notably for par, sometimes for bogey, always just to see the 65-year-old Nicklaus applaud the green.

The roars made him tick to his stomach—a 5-over 77 as nine the cut by six shots.

"It will probably be close to my golf in the United States in regular tournament golf, more than likely," Nicklaus said. "I may come back here, but I certainly wouldn't plan on it."

Then again ...

"I just don't need thinking with a 77," he said.

Sluman had five completions with 10-7's, especially since it put him in the lead at 9-under 136. Sluman was among the few players near the lead who didn't drop any strokes over the first three holes, although it easily looked as if he would when he missed the green to the left at No. 13.

His Hogwarts was perfect and sunk a 20-foot chip for a birdie, and he saved par moments on the 14th.

"It is a pretty solid, just didn't get as much out of it because I didn't hit as close as I needed to," Sluman said. "I obviously am in a pretty good position.

Others (70) and Fourie (68) had a chance to tie for the lead, but bogeys on the 16th hole, while Glover and Kaye each had 70 and played their way below the pack.

Vijay Singh birdied the 14th, but three strokes was that he finished shot ahead of Nicklaus. Singh and Glover games inside 12 feet, but followed his 77 with a 74 to miss for the second time this year.

Woods walked into the morning par and a US Open favorite, but he wasn't happy with his outing. "I've shown it go."

He missed the cut two straight, ending his record on nine consecutive.

FRENCH OPEN

Nadal's natal day ends in triumph

PARIS—Sorry, Roger.

Where were sensational Rafael Nadal won an 18-shot rally to complete his most impressive victory yet, he collapsed on his back at the French Open and stared skyward in the sky he loves. Then he looked in the sun to shake hands with top-ranked Roger Federer.

RAFAEL Nadal jubilates after making the finals.

There's something about Mary

DUBLIN—An absolute father overdosed on her as a teen. But she dreams to dance as a young woman, only to suffer cancer-threatening injuries. And when the world her written her off, she wages a comeback and makes a statement.

Sound like good book material?

"It would make a really amazing story, that's for sure," Mary Pierce said.

For now, she said she has "no idea" if there's an autobiography in her future. But if she undertook a book, Pierce said Friday, she would expose herself and write about the bad times as well as the good.

When the Paris Junior Wimbledon champion at the French Open final Saturday. Never will be the oldest women's Grand Slam finalist since Martina Navratilova was runner-up at Wimbledon in 1994 at age 37.

Doubles are a term by a tumultuous relationship with her father, who was banned for the WTA Tour for four years. Pierce rose to shortlist the early rings to age 20 when she won the 1995 Australian Open.

The man breakthrough came in 2000, when the Roland Garros title helped her finally win over French fans who had jeered her in the past and mocked her American accent.

"I said, 'I'm sorry for you,'" Hantuchová said. "He said, 'No, no, you played very well.' It's not easy when you player to the No. 1 and love in the semifinal of a Grand Slam at Roland Garros when he never won here. And he's unbelievable, isn't?"

Unbelievable, perhaps, but not unbeatable. Federer lost to Nadal, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, in the semifinals of the French Open on Friday. The result allowed the balance of power atop the men's game, with Federer's reign no longer quite so secure, and reinforced Nadal as the Best on Sunday against second-seeded Marcos Puerta.

Playing on his 19th birthday, Nadal avenged a loss to Federer at last Barajas' two months ago and extended his winning streak to 25 matches, all on clay. The Spaniard became the youngest finalist in Roland Garros since Michael Chang, the 1989 champion at age 17.

"My best present for today is this match, no?" Nadal said in his squishy improving English.

After fight fading in the final set, Nadal swept the last five games and stopped Federer cheat in his bid for his first French Open title to complete a career Grand Slam.

"I would say the disappointment is in control," Federer said. "I'm not giving up dreams the hardest event and never plan serious again. I had this the opportunity big to come back in the next few years and so do better."

Nadal and Puerta, who beat Russian Mikhail Youzhny, 6-3, 5-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, will play to their first major final. It will be the first all-lefty men's final at Roland Garros in the Open era.

AP

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Lady Stags take down Lady Tam

SAN SEBASTIAN: Riveal with shimmer in mixed net but make one FIBA's lone scorer (20-16, 18, 25-21, 16-24 victory yesterday in Shuler/YP League at the FILOMENO mini-cours.

Lady Stags Jennifer Bolanos and Lara Arat Lorgio had a combined 28 points to sway power attacker Charity Ann Bhavan who scored for Lady Stags—dropped one but clip cop shape... with a game high 19 points.

"Submitting setter as offense [Evangelista] helped in offensive," said coach Cristopher relied more the game for them.

San Sebastian's new coming combination second with a 5-1 card, was in the driver seat for most of the match until Lady Tam rise Ruby May Rovira rallied switches on a killer to tie homerwork.

Still, which came off a straight-set victory Tamaraw on Thursday, still to 1-6, 1-1 losing chain chance of entering the semifinal in the event hosted by Mildcat, Arrol, Mandaue and mmm Television.

Meanwhile, San Sebastian shows for its future. A against antenna Lyceum has are to having.

"This is another round of the tournament joining back to cores, so we're not taking match for granted," Lorgio said.

Highlights of the match would be the close first 13 of 7 tonight, according to the ongoing Sports Statistic Management Group list.

In the second game, University of L Tamaraw-followed stories, 23-25, 25-23, 25-23, 25-16, 15-9. The Tigresses (1-1) are to 0-3, losing the Lady Stags to child p

MPC summer camp draws huge turnout

MANILA Polo Club's (MPC) Team outdoor Base, Based from the first summer sporting camp, packed sessions with its 750 total participants this year.

Last year, the Club was able to register 615 participants which is a fairly good number compared with last summer's number.

With the doubled number of MPC's summer campers this year, operations, coaches and organizers look forward to a better time in 2006.

The "Train with the Best, Excel from the Rest" Summer Training Camp offered baseball, golf, climbing and swimmer features Although not included are jogging, badminton, fencing, golf, karate, taekwondo, soccer, squash, swimming and tennis. The program lasted from March 28 to May 31.

Other activities included in the program were overnight camping, adventures, dance workshops (ballet and modern styles), reading and arts appreciation programs, and cooking lessons.

Manila Polo Club traded for Sports and Games directors, Roberto de Ocampo and Ray Dempsey. Sports and Games managed Jessica Ocampo and the different sports committees chairpersons and members, namely Benjie Erafia (archery, swimmer Steffen, wall climbing and soccer), Don Williams (badminton), Arnold Ildefonso (fencing, taekwondo, karate and dance workshops), Philip Mallari (golf), Raymond Bautista (tennis), and James Marsh Thomson (swimming).

SOCCER—one of the activities the MPC Summer Camp offered.

Team Santos tops ABI

TEAM Santos defeated Team Barrio, 64-62, to cop the 2005 Dasco Division of the recently concluded Antonio Basketball League.

Ramel Noro, a former pro, made three crucial free throws to seal the victory.

Team Santos is sponsored by Pepsi, Uli and Gatorade.

Team Barrio, led by former PBA players Dyle Quiwa and Gabby Cui, is the only team they beat in last year's championships.

Skimming Team Santos is cap Richie Santos who incidentally h the ABL second for most points in a pic game when he shot 15 pc against Team Bengzon last year. Ba of Team Santos players were a part of the division Seniors and ju team Utah Championship co There are Christian Alff from Tim defensive Player of the Year Ta Fabian Bajin del Rosario, and Sta Epok Quiroga and Eric Yu.

NBC tilt: Golden Harvest tames Baguio Lions

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Jose Galvez Jr.'s Fuerteria Golden Harvest posted its second straight win in its Season Centennial campaign in the 2005 Petrosanic ABC national basketball championship Friday by holding off the Baguio Lions, 71-68, at the Ellipse here.

Dante silver late in the game, the Team Investments Philippines-Benco-backed Lions of Vice Mayor Benedicto Bautista Jr. rallied behind Antonio Pascualito and Jun Ramos' scoring to tie it 68-68 with six seconds left.

But Valencia's Joel Cinapanis sank one freethrow to douse mild water on the Lions' rally.

Valencia, which topped Cavite the other day, leveled its record at 2-2 in the tourney hosted by Sanmarie, Salgado Linen, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Spring Cooking Oil, Asics, Mikasa, Burlesk, Hanson's Spring, Bo Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Schiller Solutions Presidio, Ping Lodion, Bengh Joker Arnaiz, Rayhaven Hotel and Subdiq Pharma Inc.

Valencia and Ilgan Consolers didn't open in the Southern Cross zone. Oconia Dry made with a 2-0 card, followed by Iloilo 2-0.

'Balikbayan'

ONE OF the first things a Balikbayan notices after leaving home is one continuing constant with basketball, after being away for years, many Balikbayans are surprise surprise over our being viscerally in love with the game.

"When I am inspired about most," says a Balikbayan friend, "it we haven't really grown. She still dive all nine years and yes, we continue to adore the sport."

He was literally on the completion of men and basketball fellows at our inside. Basketball is all man's game and we can never see in basketball.

"I still more than a decade ago with basketball as our common sport," says my balikbayan friend. "Why it has remained that way I can only say one thing. We must be a crazy race, indeed."

When I tell him about how huge the salaries of some of our basketball players receive per year, he shakes his head and says, "Incredible! They really pay them that much?"

When I tell him about the minimum salary of undrafted players in the PBA and I hear tell him how much I get per month, his eyes seem to pop out of their sockets.

"Wow! And to think that your players on their would always help boost their stock!" he says. "No, make their bosses with your strategy and [unreadable] more than much?"

When I tell him I have no problem with this, when I say I am three meals a day with functioning a couple of [unreadable] during the day—not to mention having more than in the morning—he shakes his head and his shoulder his head again, as though to digest.

"Come to Atlanta and I can see your balikbayan mother you next semester," he says.

"Thank you, thank you," I say as time. "But when I am not in the city anymore, I am happy to [unreadable], no complaints or [unreadable]."

Not the money here, but the money

Happiness is what counts in the end. But the trade of money you have at the end of the day.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

[unreadable] day.

Whatever you are, whatever you aspire in life is, with you can define what happiness is.

John Lennon sang: "Happiness is a warm gun."

Whatever he means by that, nobody knows. Only he should know.

A dear cousin of [illegible] in Santa Ana, [illegible] life of a homeless in America.

"She is so happy with that and what she [illegible] have her?" says Jess, the honest friend of Kuya Pepito, my balikbayan brother. "Happiness is when you and I drink, when you and I feel, we may differ in views about happiness, but only you can really define your own brand of happiness."

Balikbayan is, deserves an amount of money in the world that can buy happiness. Believe me. Balikbayans are hoping happiness where you pay someone to take care of you in your old age?

No, what you will be going for a serious happiness. Sex every hour.

"Oh, Oh, change the topic," the balikbayan says. "You need power and other situations have become really true but I mean, I remember when I was in the city, I was one of the employee guards at the gate, each one arrived to the north. Some beautiful houses that Pinoys are sure were worshiped by [unreadable] owners. Pardon?"

Realizing I remember the answer to the—supplied by another friend of mine a while back: "Because our government cannot protect us anymore. So we have to protect our own selves."

I was almost tempted to add, "We have we also need to protect ourselves from the government."

"OK, OK, change the topic," says the balikbayan. "Where are we going to play golf again?"

Ah, golf is the one game that he plays with passion. He has become addicted to it.

"From where I live, I could play golf all year round," says he. "In winter, there's no golf at all. You are lucky here because your golf courses are open 12 months a year. I envy you guys."

The last time he played golf was in December.

"I'm always in golf [unreadable] every day," I said," says he. "Although being injured, once I will do four sessions before Daddy retires. I will do four sessions before Daddy retires. I will do four sessions and one more for the golf. Golf is my happiness."

"Change the topic!"

"Hey," he says. "What time are you free? Maybe we can play golf some afternoon?"

Penalty drops RP's Murakami to fourth place

MANAMA—Antonio Murakami shot a one-over 73 in the final round on Friday to settle for fourth place in the Iniquez Amateur Open at the Sitraine Golf Club.

Murakami finished with a 211 total, four shots behind Australian Andrew Tampion.

The 22-year-old former RP Direct champion fell out of the fight on the 9 after being penalized two strokes for moving a yardage marker on the last way for his third shot.

Local ruler in the Iniquez after a player in take a drop in these circumstances, but Murakami pulled the marker from the ground and did not take a drop as he finished.

It was the end of a frustrating weekend for Murakami, who classed in within one behind Tampion after starting the day five strokes down.

"I really was not aware of the local rules," said Murakami over the phone. "Obviously, it was a little way to learn a lesson."

The dozen shot rounds of 69-70-and-73 were as farm the Filipino, who won the Bic Plus Amateurs last week, failed to work himself back in the mix after opening up with a 71 on Wednesday to finish sixth.

Marvin Simmonides, the second placer here last year, and former caddies' champion for Bayeur tied for eighth place with 220 totals. Mesung S. Castillo

Game 6 puts Pistons legacy at stake

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—At stake for the Detroit Pistons in Game 6 against the Miami Heat is so much more than their NBA playoff lives. The outcome will go a long way toward determining whether history will view them as a Bole champion.

Try to find an NBA champion that didn't win at least two titles in a span of four years, and it takes some rewarding. There hasn't been one since the Philadelphia 76ers of 1982-83.

The Pistons' ultimate legacy won't be known for another few years, but their shortterm impact on people's long-term perceptions will be based in large part on how they perform on Sunday in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals and possibly in Game 7 on Monday back in Miami.

"Saying it was a Bole because they only won it once, that's not what we want to be associated with this team," Detroit's Lindsey Hunter said on Friday after the Pistons' practice following their 88-74 loss in Game 5.

It remained uncertain whether the Heat would have Dwyane Wade available for Game 6 after he sustained a right rib muscle in Game 5. Wade, who did not practice or speak to the media on Friday, has been Miami's leading scorer in the playoffs, averaging 27 points in the five games against Detroit.

"There's a lot of things that might happen," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said.

While the Heat wrestled about Wade, the Pistons concerned themselves with trying to find a way to get Rasheed Wallace more involved in the offense and less involved in sweeping.

Wallace scored just two points and attempted only three shots in Game 5, drawing a technical foul after he went to the bench following his third offensive foul of the night. AP

NBA on 'Solar'

Meanwhile, catch the exclusive live coverage of the Pistons-Heat game on the country's leading cable sports outlet...Solar Sports, and on free-to-air TV via RPN-9 beginning at 8 a.m. today.

This time, FedEx is craving for a crown

By Jose Navarro

CONVENTION with just clinching up a decent finish surely underwrites the post season, there's nothing wrong if the FedEx Express stave for a Philippine Basketball Association title this time around.

"It's possible and the players know it. I guess it's just a matter of believing in what we're trying to do in practice and even during the games," said FedEx coach Tony Harrison, who took over from Joe Lipa Salves the start of the conference.

Harrison, undoubtedly, is the chief architect of the Express' ongoing success in the Great Monster PBA Fiesta Conference.

Since the former Magna Cardi. ral called the shots, FedEx has displayed from perennial tailender to title contenders.

"If there's one team really serious of taking home the championship, it's FedEx," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "You cannot take them for granted unless you wanted to be blown away."

Though the first Lima-owned franchise has its share of growing pains, the Express will wound up fifth after winning half of their 11 classification-round games in advance into the solid-card plays opposite the Purefoods TV-Anthrax.

Bobby Gonzales came out of his shell in the ongoing conference by putting on quality minutes while save rewards Gary David and Bonro Devis have been dishing out performances complementary of the FedEx stance.

ISSN 0116-2442 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 177

OPINION

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'Deep Throat'

FOR 30 YEARS, the identity of "Deep Throat" was the best-kept secret in the annals of contemporary journalism in the United States. Deep Throat was the one who leaked to two reporters of The Washington Post inside information on the cover-up by US President Richard Nixon of the June 17, 1972 break-in at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.

EDITORIAL

The veil of the mystery over "Who was Deep Throat?" was lifted on May 31—when Vanity Fair published an article by a California lawyer, John D. O'Connor, who wrote that W. Mark Felt, the No. 2 man at the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the Nixon administration, had admitted that "I'm the Guy they used to call the Deep Throat!"

Felt, now 91 and in fragile health after suffering a stroke and with a dimming memory, made the startling disclosure in his retirement home in California. The leaks supplied by Felt to two Washington Post reporters—Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein—provided confirmation and context to the series of explosive Post stories on the Watergate break-in that led to the unprecedented resignation of Nixon on Aug. 9, 1974. The illegal methods and dirty tricks employed by the Nixon administration to cover up the Watergate burglary are by now familiar. The Post's stories on the burglary now stand as an iconic model of investigative journalism, illustrating the power of the press to bring down governments that abuse power in democratic societies.

Felt's admission not only dissolved the mystique of Deep Throat, which has been glamorized in films. It also puts a spotlight on an issue that swirls around the press—that is, the confidentiality of information revealed by unnamed sources—at a time when journalists are often put under threat of criminal legal action or of being considered enemies of the state or security risks.

Felt's disclosure broke a covenant between him and the Post reporters—that Deep Throat's identity would not be revealed until his death. Woodward, Bernstein and the Post editors were caught by surprise by Felt's revelation. On the same day the Vanity Fair story was published on May 31, Woodward confirmed that Felt was Deep Throat. Woodward and Bernstein issued a statement reaffirming their promise to keep the secret until Deep Throat died. The Post's executive editor, Leonard Downie Jr., said "the newspaper decided that 'it' had been released from its obligation by Felt's family and by his lawyer through the publication of O'Connor's article. Downie praised Woodward's willingness to abide by his pledge.

"This demonstrates clearly the lengths to which Bob and this newspaper will go to protect sources and a confidential relationship," Downie said. Ben Bradlee, former editor of the Post who had known Deep Throat's identity and he was amazed that the mystery had lasted through the decades. "What would you think the odds were that this town could keep that secret for so long?" Bradlee said.

The motives of Felt in leaking inside information to the Post reporters—whether for patriotic reasons or over grievances that he had been passed over for FBI director after J. Edgar Hoover's death—are irrelevant to the main issue of the confidentiality. Deep Throat "found the reporters to the pledge not to quote him. They abided by that pledge.

Part of the reason why the Post editors stuck to their stories and kept their pledge was that they did rely on Deep Throat's story, aside from the fact that the information he passed on to them were verified with other sources. The paper put its credibility on the line with information from several sources, not only from Felt.

Woodward and Bernstein expressed the concern that the Deep Throat story has, over the years, "come to obscure the many other elements that went into exposing the Watergate story: other sources, other investigators, high-impact Senate hearings, a shocking trove of secret White House tape recordings and decisive intervention."

Bernstein wants emulation of investigative reporting seeking to bring down governments than "Felt's role in all this can be overrated... You see...that Felt largely confirmed information we had already gotten from other sources."

The broad basis of sources upon which the Post built its Watergate stories served to give it confidence in fending off pressures from the Nixon administration and in standing by its pledge to keep its sources anonymous. If the stories had not been built on solid foundations, the paper could have been less able to keep its pledge.

Unjust impositions

SEPARATE OPINION

ISAGANI A. CRUZ

ITS ABOLITION to the minimum wage, public transportation fare, and tuition expenses. I believe that Congress should also regulate the price of medicines, admission stickers and parking fees. Financial charges on these additional subjects are determined in the practical, by unrestricted discretion of the corresponding companies that can impose and enforce their demands on the helpless public without accountability.

The most Congress has done to lower the cost of medicines is the Generics Act, which gives the patient a wider choice in the medicines he may purchase. But that is not enough. The difference in the cost of drugs of the same class is not substantial enough to give the purchaser sufficient financial relief. The cost of medicines in each class is still high compared to the lower price of foreign medicines sold in the Philippines.

Despite this well known fact, importation of such foreign medicines is discouraged and even prohibited by our government. Patronizing our own products is commendable but not when equivalent medicines from abroad are cheaper in preserving the health and even the life of our people. We have practically a drug saved in the Philippines, with the principal foreign-owned drug companies monopolizing the distribution and dictating the cost of medicines.

These companies are known to indulge the physicians who prescribe their products with generous rewards, or bribes if you will, including vacations abroad with their families, all expenses paid by the donor. Such accommodations, together with the outrageous outlay for advertising and endorsements from talents for cameras, is added to the price of the medicine. The customers must pay for all this without realizing the immense contributions they are forced to add to the earnings of the drug companies. Such deceptive cartoon is inhumane to Congress.

Another business taking in profits every year at public expense is the requirement for tickets for the use of subdivision roads. Every time subdivisions, or even just passing through them, is not permitted, without the necessary sticker dictated by the village company or the neighborhood association. Many times they pay the usage prices for these passes, some costing as much as P1,000, to avoid the loss of time, put just as precious going through the congested traffic outside.

There is a law that makes subdivision streets public property but that is generally ignored and not enforced. Subdivision clubs may have to change sticker fees for the upkeep of their roads that neighborhood—i.e., nonpaying—members have no right to use. A decision of the Supreme Court has held that opening private roads to ease traffic congestion is a proper exercise of the police power to promote public convenience and welfare. But this is not done even in Metro Manila where the number shows of cars requires such a regulation.

The cruel subject of unlawful exactions is the parking fee system. The only reason it was obtained was permitted is that it is allowed by a relevant government. The late Sen. Benny Cayetano sought to prohibit it but he passed away and, with him, his popular bill. Now Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers (R, 1) is reviving his proposal, such, let us hope, a similar success lies. Pio Cayetano will introduce or for his late brother's daughter.

This is a business practice that is causing much inconvenience—and also hardship—to many people in Metro Manila. But it is defying without remorse or limitation.

The reason most commercial establishments have lifted up is the lack of parking space for their prospective customers. You cannot say it is irrational to go to a movie house if you have no with a billionaire away from where you can park your car. People will naturally patronize a company where the management provides for parking space in the same building, or at least conveniently near it. This goes for the other businesses like banks, hotels, and shopping malls. Government offices and even schools should be included, like the university that collects from its students P40 each for parking, on top of their tuition and other fees.

The arguments that persons with full-time employment may use free parking space for their vehicles during their workday may be offset by requiring proof of the service and time that required the parking. An official receipt or a certification from the company where the business was scanned should be sufficient. Parking beyond the reasonable time required for the transaction can be subject to parking charges, but to no other case. Students with a full academic load will have to pay parking charges, but certainly not to the rate of P40 a day.

There may be certain irrefutable objections to what these basic proposals but a more careful study of the problems may be raised over the heads of the public. Congress will be rewarding a distinct service to the people if it could, after a thorough examination of these practices that are causing them much expense and inconvenience, declare some way as possible claims. It is an evil obviously to be wished.

'I' sight

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a man who went to his doctor to get a new pair of eyeglasses. The very last day, he was back to his ophthalmologist. "Are your glasses okay?" asked the ophthalmologist.

"My glasses are fine, but I am screaming them, because my wife still doesn't see it the way I wanted her to see."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 9, 9-13), we are reminded that God's way of seeing is broader than our way of seeing. He looks at sinners with respect, understanding, compassion and love. It is said that when God looks at us, he corners one eye as true he will not see the negative in us. The problem with many of us is that we open our two eyes, and even use magnifying glasses to see the negative in other people and in us.

* * *

Are you a judgmental person? Remember the story about a farmer and his faithful dog? Every day, the farmer would leave the baby in the crib under the watchful eye of his faithful dog while he went out to farm. One day, however, when he was coming home, he was met by his dog all bloodied in its chest and mouth. In anger, the farmer got his tools, shovel, dog, and ran to the house. To his surprise, he saw the baby, safe in the crib, under which lay a big, dead snake, obviously killed by his faithful dog, which unfortunately, in his rush, judgment and anger, he himself had rendered lifeless. How often have we "killed" people in our hearts and minds! How often have we labeled them!

* * *

Whenever we are tempted to judge or label others, remind me to pause, to pray and ask for His sight: "Lord, this is how I look at it, but how do you look at it, Lord? This is how it looks from my end, but how, how does it look from your end?" May we always have the humility and the openness to see others as you see them.

* * *

Last week a couple walked into my office for counseling. It was a painful case of infidelity on the wife's part. At first, the husband was so full of anger. He said he would not forgive and trust again. He was going nowhere in our marriage when the wife said to the husband, "Did I not forgive you and trust you again when you also committed infidelity five years ago?" That was the breakthrough that made him realize that he too had sinned and had been forgiven. He too had fallen and had been raised. People who have never experienced falling and being forgiven often become proud and unforgiving. God has a hard time dealing with people who rely more on their goodness rather than on His mercy. To them I say: My goodness! Can't you see that your goodness is so little compared to God's mercy?

* * *

By the way, how is your eyesight? Maybe you don't have a problem with your eyesight, but how about your "I" sight? Do you see "I," say "I," think "I," and do "I" most of the time? You better have your "I" checked. My guess is that you have a bloated "I."

* * *

The following are the symptoms of having an "I" sight problem: selfishness, pride, arrogance, impudence, unforgiveness, meanness, laziness, unconcern, anger, envy, scheming, excess, denial, etc. If you have these, please come and the Lord to prayer. He will tell you that the cause of your "I" sight problem is your uncontrolled selfishness and high pride. The cure is simple humility, trusting toward God, and toward other people. It will lead you to see His sight, and that will enable you to see other people right.

* * *

It's back to school once again. Be salam all students who brave the road of education that will lead them to greater heights and sights, and the teachers and parents who accompany them on the road. Aside from knowledge and know-how, are we molding the future generation to be generous and giving? Are we turning up children who have big hearts and big pockets, but who have small hearts? Are we passing on our "I" sight diseases unto them?

* * *

Inviting you to the founding of "Heartfelt Moments" on Sunday, June 11, 2007, at the 6:30 p.m. Mass at Christ the King Seminary Church (E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., QC). This at 6:30 and connect to celebrant of songs and prayers. I have composed through the years, which I hope will inspire and bring peace as a moment of prayer, especially the ones sung by the blind 11-year-old Bernie Soriano. May this album help ease people of their "I" sight, and make them realize that there are people who are taken with bigger problems than their own, and that there is a God who is merciful and compassionate, our sufferings, our illnesses and weaknesses. God willing, the visionary John Abe from Iloilo, Korea will join us in the founding. See you! Let us help Fr. Jun gain his sight, and also help our Filipino INC missionaries through the funds that will be raised from the sale of the album.

* * *

To answers with the Lord:
Lord, please cure me of my "I" sight. Amen.

* * *

E-mail: orbos@manila.svdcs.net

The GSIS: P35-billion profit?

REVILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST week, the Social Weather Stations, in a survey for the Ayala Foundation, came out with obviously bullish (or not) news on top service some agencies in the country for the month of December 2004. According to it, a former Philippine Bar topper, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) was the most corrupt office in the public sector.

One out of five respondents named the GSIS and the AFP as having the most opportunities for corruption. Twenty-one percent of the respondents identified the GSIS as the most corrupt, while 21 percent said the AFP was the top offender." The report went on to say that in a November 2003 survey, the GSIS was ranked third most corrupt behind the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

* * *

The GSIS was established on Nov. 14, 1936, during the Commonwealth period, by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 186. It was created primarily to provide life insurance for government employees, including those of the Philippine Information Society. The benefits also included retirement as well as disability protection for those at the end of service. In the beginning, membership of the regular forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, but the policy was revised to be continued a few years ago when I was still in the service.

As far back as I can remember, the GSIS was headed by distinguished professionals like Gregorio Montilla, Romeo David, Quirino Gil Elona, Nicolas Belmonte Jr., Dante Santos, Gene Santos and others. During all their years in office, there were never been complaints from members from time to time about delays in the release of loans and benefits. But never was the institution ever subjected to the same kind of unsavory accusations as those of the past few years, the GSIS has not only been included in the corrupt list—it

was in the very top of the heap, beating out the traditional bad egg like the BIR, Customs and (AFP). When only latter one out of five respondents in a survey saying that the GSIS is the most corrupt agency in government, it is time to take a closer look at the System.

My colleagues, only a few weeks ago, GSIS president Winston Garcia announced that the GSIS had made a remarkable P35.2 billion profit for last year's operations which President Macapagal-Arroyo used in the remarks for Labor's concession bargaining deadline. In other words, how can one argue against a P35-billion profit?

Prior to all, let me make consider that P35-billion profit appear very carefully. As any experienced executive will tell you, a smart accountant can make the figures in an annual report come out anything like ones for the benefit of the boss. Just remember the economics and bookkeeping practices used by the executives of Enron and WorldCom, which made people believe that their corporate health profitable corporations only to find out in the end that their shares had become worthless. The same is true with an American investment company, Bennington. Even former George Soros's Quantum Fund, which made billions, was recently charged in New York State security General Eliot Spitzer with manipulating financial records, hiding losses and other similar shenanigans. In our own country there have been numerous instances reports of overstated export figures by government officials. The most recent was similar cheating scandal raised by the International Monetary Fund during the martial law years had to do with an overestimation of our

export of cigarette lighters for its foothold in China.

Just said it was "very likely" that an informed dialogue between this two may have happened late 2004 through third parties.

While believed in the statement by economist Thomas Friedman's columns—effect on other groups, like Honduras and Rwanda, who also claims for more freedom. Taiwan particularly says. They claim that he likely line will not abandon Taiwan even if it moves to reconcile with Taipei to Beijing, saying religious channels are not solely built on diplomatic ties.

"Everyone's no doubt that Taiwan wants to establish relations with China," said Joseph Cheng, Archbishop of Taipei. "But the Vatican has never been keen on any ties with any country." Despite his reservations, some parishioners are worried that the Vatican may be ready to quit them up. It would be a "disaster" for the Church if Beijing were to be viewed as an independent country. The Holy See is one of only 26 states to have recognized Taipei.

"I think it's strange if the Iranian heads of Taiwan," Taiwan because God does not care about parties," said parishioner Amy Lo after attending an afternoon Mass in Taipei.

For them, he welcomes any move that will help the faithful in China, but he does not have much confidence in the communists.

"When the two countries were normalized in 1985, he was offered just two years from which to leave USD1,000," in compensation for two decades of forced labor as a painter and farmer.

"It's very close to close Marxist-Leninist ideology than there is no God. That's their principle," he said.

Reuters

The work of learning

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I WISH Sagay to receive recently the assessment report on a new General Education (GE) course in their I helped design. The course, "Sociology 13: On Being Filipino: A Sociological Exploration," is the first year of the new Program in the G.E. social science cluster in the University of the Philippines Diliman campus. Students come, once a week, to "socialize," and the demand for additional sections has been pretty consistent.

The course was born when we saw the need for taught them to be reflective and to think more critically. Asked how the course can be improved, the students suggested more "visual aids" and more opportunities for class participation. There are increasing comments. Because they willingly learning is the means to which the ends of learning is the means to which the ends of learning is the means to which the ends of

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jarrivera@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Bautista Jr.

What makes Filipinos gamble?

By Johann Barrameda

Archbishop Oscar Cruz is heading a crusade against gambling because he implores how jueteng and other forms of gambling have the power to spend the little money that they have on bets.

Suppose our politicians and government officials do something they have not done in 500 years, that is, stop jueteng, will the poor stop gambling? Or will other forms of gambling surface?

What is the psychology of gambling? Why do supposedly intelligent human beings throw their assets and bet their lives away? If the chance of winning the lotto jackpot is less than 1 in 5 million, why are millions of pesos spent on lotto bets everyday?

The psychology of gambling tells us that people base their reactions in the face of opportunities to win easy money. They become oblivious to the staggering odds against winning. Many people become victims of scams and swindling schemes because of the desire, if not greed, to have something big in exchange for so little.

The idiot machine is one of the best examples of how the gambling procedure is able to empty one's pocket.

Pecking behavior

The slot machine is programmed for what psychologists call a variable interval rate of reinforcement. In front of a slot machine, many people behave much like pigeons. Pigeons peck on a plastic disk. If a pigeon's pecking on a particular spot increases when it is given reinforcement, not after every peck (which is called continuous reinforcement but after several pecks (which is called intermittent reinforcement). The more or interval, schedule of reinforcement becomes more powerful increasing creates more and faster pecking behavior! If it is under variable-ratio schedule of reinforcement, not after every peck (which is called continuous reinforcement but after several pecks (which is called intermittent reinforcement). The more or interval, schedule of reinforcement becomes more powerful increasing creates more and faster pecking behavior! If it is under variable-ratio schedule of reinforcement, not after every 10 pecks but on average of 1/10—after 8 then after 14 then after 5, etc. It becomes even more powerful when variable ratio schedule of reinforcement is combined with variable interval.

In a slot machine, one does not know when he will win but the machine somehow knows the payout. When the player is just about to quit, he chooses when he wins a small amount. This is very comforting as the machine is also telling the player that he is not totally addicted! What he'll never tell the losers P500 that he wins P500 before losing all of his P500 then no one be rewarded quit yet.

Test your gambling addiction!

- Are you preoccupied with gambling (e.g. thinking about planning or having past gambling activities, handicapping or planning the next action, or thinking of ways to get money for gambling?
- Do you need to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement?
- Have you had repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling?
- Do you become restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling?
- Do you gamble as a way of escaping from problems or feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety, or depression?
- After losing money, do you return another day to get even?
- Have you lied to family members, therapist, or others to conceal the extent of your involvement with gambling?
- Have you committed illegal acts such as forgery, fraud, theft, or embezzlement to finance your gambling activities?
- Have you jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, educational or career opportunity because of gambling?
- Have you relied on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling?

If you answered yes to one or two questions, you are a problem gambler. If you answered yes to five or more, you are a pathological gambler and needs professional help.

His warning has fired him up. He promises to play his hero his self-imposed limit of P500 and the P500 he won yet he sometimes to play. Among the ways he learn more than he write. An hour or two later he couldn't believe he's lost P5,000!

If a jueteng or lotto officials/collectors were to list his bets and winnings on a sheet of paper—the bets on the left side and the winnings on the right side—what will the list look after one year?

While it's possible that he will have won more than he has lost, it is more probable that his losses are far greater than his winnings. He is not different as numerous people that the chances of winning the lotto jackpot, or even the jueteng is very slim. In fact, they know it. Yet, they continue to gamble. They are willing to lose a lot of money just as they know that chance of getting the pot, no matter how slim.

Gambler vs entrepreneur

A sensible layperson person would consider gambling as one of the worst ways to lose money. In fact, if we were to observe the behavior of successful entrepreneurs, we'd notice that what they do is the exact opposite of what gamblers do.

Gamblers want to risk little to get a lot. Entrepreneurs are into risk a lot to get large profits from small investments. For whole gamblers, the more they have to stay into the more they are prepared to do what it takes to ensure that it is done!

Gamblers often rely on all sorts of rituals and superstition to ensure their winnings. A good entrepreneur carefully studies the market, the product and everything else he will need to take profit.

The gambler becomes impatient as he loses, as he spends more money to recover his losses, often playing bigger and bigger bets. He becomes desperate. The entrepreneur is not around the corner and does not become that impatient with the chances of winning. He carefully studies the market.

Some entrepreneurs are willing to go to at once earning. Others are more cautious, but generally after estimating their market they're willing to take a strategic

Gambling strategies

Some gamblers employ certain strategies or, in the case of some forms of gambling, tests and experiment to increase their chances of winning. Take lawyer-and-fighting cocks who are sometimes desperate. They go to great lengths to choose the best breed and train the cocks to fight well. All these efforts help—up to a certain point. The rest is left to luck!

A good entrepreneur does everything to ensure that the business will thrive. Expenditure studies are done even before actual business starts, there is commercial product testing, test marketing as well as marketing and promotions strategies to compete with similar products. While entrepreneurs also wish for luck, they don't rely on it.

It is not easy to know the point when one consciously bet money on gaming. It's so easy to say that it is also there's hard: they are poor because they gamble. The reverse is true: they are poor because they gamble. If they have invested instead of saving their money or using the funds that they have for small enterprises.

Dr. Randolph de Rosario David said in his column, he or long as addiction is found on psychology and

The psyche of a gambler

GAMBLING probably dates back to biblical times. For thousands of years, people of all classes, ages and professions have been drawn to games and gambling.

Aside from the fun, thrill and excitement they give, hundreds of millions of people around the world participate in games of chance in one form or another with one thing in mind—to get rich quick or hit the proverbial jackpot.

In the Philippines, gambling has become a multi-billion peso industry that even the government has dipped its hands into it. The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. maintains several casinos in key cities and major urban centers across the country while the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office operates sweepstakes and online lotto draws.

The government also allows horse racing at the Sta. Ana and San Lazaro racetracks under the supervision of the Philippine Racing Commission.

Ret. Gen. Wilfredo R. Resurreccion, author of the book "Anatomy of Gambling," said the existence of these state gambling institutions has not only abetted but also worsened the gambling habits of Filipinos. These gambling institutions have produced millions of gambling addicts, he said.

But for the masses who can't afford to go to the state casinos or play the lotto, there are several forms of gambling, albeit illegal, where they can bet a few centavos.

These include jueteng, the most popular numbers game, last two and monitic card games such as monte, sakla, lucky nine, Russian poker and *pusoy dos*; cockfighting, horse racing, carabao and bi-ko.

Resurreccion had estimated that about P300 million are wagered daily in all forms of illegal gambling in the entire country.

What attracts people to gambling? Theorists abroad and not even the experts know for certain. But even the most casual gambler can attest to the thrill that accompanies every wager.

In last week's Talk of the Town, we titled "Why are Filipino kids not learning?" the sentence "This can be achieved by keeping short the schooling of children, especially lower-income families" should have read: "The cannot be achieved by keeping short..."

A review by the Department of Education has found that 21 elementary schools from the schools division of Pangasinan II, which is based in Binalonan, should not have been among the top 28 elementary schools for school year 2002-2003.)

Jueteng

Jueteng itself is proof of this. Occasional rats on the government whose task it is to help citizens to avoid. There may be programs and projects in place, but connections are what it takes to get what one's needs. There are endless forms of ill, requirements to submit and procedures can be intimidating to the uninitiated. But, nothing is so unreachable and bowing to none.

One doesn't even need to fill up forms—in fact, jueteng collectors go door to door and ensure bets right at one's doorstep! Hardly any bets are ever refused as even a one-peso bet is allowed. Lotto requires a minimum bet of P10. Jueteng minimum do not need to know their bettors as winnings are delivered to them, although a token or bonus is expected.

It is no surprising then, for ordinary citizens to gravitate more towards jueteng than any of the legalized forms of gambling.

They are treated with deference no matter how small their bets are. Plus, someone being such a 'think tanker' that one pose bet to all that it takes to provide hope for something a little lower than what they have. Perhaps, it is also such a big difference, having one chance in a million as opposed to no

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

STREET LIGHT
A Zamboanga City resident joins protest against the planned transfer of the headquarters of the Southern Command from the city to Pagadian.

MILF says peace pact would end terrorism

CAMP DARAPANAN, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) gave an assurance yesterday that the peace agreement it would sign with the government would put an end to terrorism in the country.

But MILF chair Murad Ebrahim quickly said that the rebel group was not engaged in terrorism.

"We don't feel that terrorism can be a weapon in order to achieve our objectives. It's against Islam, ideology and we will not promote it," he said.

The MILF has been waging an armed rebellion for an independent Moro nation for over two decades now.

For recently, its officials said they were willing to clinch a deal with the government even if it was not for independence as long as it would address the Bangsamoro's quest for self-determination.

Ebrahim told reporters here that terrorism was the product of a long period of problems remaining unsolved.

"Terrorism could only be resolved once the root that is producing it will be finally addressed," he said.

Ebrahim said that the peace agreement envisioned by the MILF would eventually solve terrorism.

"If there is a peace agreement, there is effective governance, there is no authority and there is still be very difficult for the terrorists [to operate]," he said.

He said with the rebellion gone, the government would be able to concentrate its force against crime syndicates.

"There would be a full control of the area. With the situation in Mindanao still in a war situation, it is very difficult for them government to use other group to control this entity of terrorist," Ebrahim said.

So, until there is relative peace and effective governance in Mindanao, there can consequently be very difficult to control terrorist activity," he said.

Ebrahim said the peace agreement would also allow the MILF to help in the government's terrorism campaign.

"In running after [members of the Jemaah Islamiyah] Jr. it's difficult for us to [recovery soon, we cannot freely move around because there we still prohibition about possible encounters with government troops," he said.

He said although the MILF wanted to help, it could not do anything in the meantime.

"Sometimes, we cannot assume the responsibility of the Philippine government in running after these terrorists and criminals because we are still at war and we are still a revolutionary movement," Ebrahim said.

The government had granted the MILF a list containing the names of 72 suspected terrorists in Mindanao for verification. Jeoffrey Mateos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

EO signed moving Puerto, Palawan to W. Visayas

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo signed last week the Executive Order transferring Palawan and Puerto Princesa City from the Southern Tagalog to the Western Visayas Region.

Executive Order 429 said the transfer was needed "to accelerate the effective administration of field and public services."

The Department of Interior and Local Government would supervise the transfer.

Nilando Aparejo, DILG provincial director, said the DILG will have to wait for instructions from Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and the regional office before taking any action.

He said he was not sure how long the transfer would be, but he said the only problem is transportation going to Iloilo where most of the regional offices are located.

A press statement from the DILG in Iloilo said Reyes ordered Undersecretary for Local Government Eduardo R. Ardiente to oversee the transfer together with the local chief executives and other officials of the concerned provinces, city and regions for a smooth transfer of the affected local government units.

Nicholle Shannon, DILG Region IV director, said Puerto Princesa, Region VI director, are now preparing the work plan for the administrative transfer of personnel and stuff.

Reyes said in the press statement that the President issued EO 429 "to guarantee the effective delivery of field and public services of government agencies and northern social and economic development in the regional and local levels."

Gov. Joel Reyes during earlier interviews said that the transfer should be given a try because it could be more beneficial to Palawan.

However, he said that a separate Palawan region would be more ideal.

He added that he could not do anything because the President already decided and it did need a referendum where Palawanons could say "yes" or "no."

The implementation of EO 429 will only take effect after its publication in two newspapers.

The Palawan State University College of Law will sponsor a forum on the moves to transfer Palawan to Region VI in June 13 at the Capitol Main Plaquite Hall, Capitol Building.

The transfer to Region IV-not first con-ference by Mrs. Arroyo when she went to Roxas, Palawan in April 13.

Since then, until the signing of EO 429, there had been no consultation with Palawanons.

The reorganized Region VI will now be composed of the provinces of Iloilo, Antique, Aklan, Capiz, Negros Occidental, Guimaras and Palawan, and the cities of Iloilo, Passi, Roxas, Bacolod, Silay, Talisay and Puerto Princesa. Zyrielle P. Tesoro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Politics seen as main cause of clan wars in Muslim Mindanao

MANILA CITY—Political rivalry remains to be one of the top causes of clan wars in many areas of Mindanao, studies conducted by separated conflict researchers showed.

During the two-day forum on "rido," or family feud, held at the Manila Polo Hotel here, the researchers also agreed that at times, clan wars have led to more grievous cases of violence involving the military and lifeless schools.

Aside from political rivalries, land disputes were also blamed for clan wars that take place in some parts of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The studies have also said that clan wars normally occur in the areas with extreme poverty, armed conflicts, governance problems and inadequate infrastructure and social services.

Dr. Macrin Mabasa, PhD, executive director of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao based in Marawi City, said that in Lanao del Sur alone, political rivalry was behind the deaths of most of the 600 people killed in clan wars during the past 13 years.

His study tallied a total of 327 rido in 39 towns and one city of Lanao del Sur.

Sixty-six people survived in the said clan wars had so far been suppressed.

"Political rivalry are among the leading causes," Mabasa said. The other causes he identified, aside from land disputes, include the concept of true ambal (pride) among Muslims.

Dr. Jamal Kamlian, of the MSU Iligan Institute of Technology said it is a similar study that small-scale clan wars tend to blow up into a bigger scale involving between separatist Moro rebels and government troops.

He said several encounters occurred in the past when it actually began from a mere clan wars.

"Many rivalry feuds have aggravated the conflict in Mindanao as these have been the causes of killings or armed encounters," Kamlian wrote in his study entitled "Incidences of clan conflict and conflict management: Survey of feuding families and clans involved in rebellion in Mindanao."

"In some cases, state clan would join the latter to get back at another clan ligasan to be responsible for the Moro rebels," Mabasa, a sociologist, said in an interview.

In Maguindanao, 23.8 cases of rido occurred from 1995 to 2004, claiming 811 lives and wounding 894, according to another study by Ahmad Syed Linggo of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies. The clan wars also displaced over 500 families in Maguindanao.

Fr. Albert Alejo, executive director of the Ateneo de Davao University (now the Cabaral) Dialogues, the group that hosted the forum, said the studies were made in the hope of influencing policy makers. Gerardine A. Ducusin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Quiet' takeover of John Hay starts

BAGUIO CITY—The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) recruited what appeared to be a quiet takeover of Camp John Hay on June 1.

The John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), BCDA estate manager for the former American rest and recreation center, took operational control of the Camp John Hay Special Economic Zone by securing small businesses operating here to stop remitting their payments to the Camp John Hay developers.

The developers, Camp John Hay Development Corp., owed huge unremitted P2.3 billion in rent, BCDA said.

Instead, the JHMC ordered Advocates like Boards Inc., Inkmed Pacific owned branches of tailors, Angles Bar, Brother's Burger, Camp Bike, Cathy' Pizza, Dreamers, Starbucks and Pigeon's Cafe to pay to a government owned account that will be established by the BCDA.

Franco Mendoza, JHMC acting president, said lawyer Lynn Fagtano Cuida, JHMC legal officer and BCDA spokesperson, also directed business establishments inside John Hay to submit in an open addition, process that would require them to pay a P50 fee.

"Under Article 1451 of the Civil Code, rights to are held subsidiarily liable for the obligations of the lessee. Hence, as sub-lessees of CDIC does you shall be held subsidiarily liable to BCDA in the amount of rent due from you, to read the June 1 memorandum issued by Ricardo and Cuida to the Camp Complex manager of Virginia's College Inn and to Wedding and Art Park.

But the accountant was directive advised the businesses that unlocking does not shield them from taxes, conflict in regular economic zones.

The Supreme Court issued a resolution on March 29 nullifying with finality the tax benefits Congress granted to the John Hay base and all other BCDA administered economic zones, except for the Subic Freeport.

The court ruled that Republic Act 7227, the BCDA law, did not provide tax benefits only to economic zones. Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mayor praises malaria victims

CONGRESSIONAL rep up proclamation for the work of Mayor Joel Campos, Christian Mendoza and Arnold Tolaso in documenting the first dwindling Yoel Bolo tube in the homeland of Rizal, Bataan. Arnold Bagaslan lamented that they had to lose their livelihood to.

At the wake of Bolo, 10, who died last June in Puerto Princesa City, Bagaslan said in a statement that he joined the group for their work.

"Although residents is no longer a threat in Puerto Princesa City, we value life more than anything else," said Bagaslan's statement.

INQUIRER Mindanao

War games kids play

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Newsbreak

HIS BURNT skin reveals all the difficult hurdles he had gone through as a fighter of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). His deep eyes are filled with passion for his cause.

At one glance, as he stood in a corner with a rifle, he is a proud member of the rebel group that has been waging war against the state for the last three decades, in the name of freedom for the Bangsamoro people.

But Abdul the Warrior is only 17 years old.

Abdul joined the MILF when he was only 11. He admitted that he was hardened by the teachings of the older rebels who were constantly going around their villages to educate the people, especially those who are interested in becoming fighters or supporters.

"I had Arabic classes and there I learned and understood the problems of the Bangsamoro ... the problems of my family, my relatives, my neighbors ... my problems," Abdul said in Pilipino.

He said he was not aware of reality that confronted his poor family although he knew how difficult it was for his parents to raise them well and send them to school.

"A lot of factors pushed me to join the MILF. Our problems and the fact that the Bangsamoro people are still doubted me more than enough reasons to fight for freedom," Abdul said.

In the heart

"Rebellion now resides in my heart," he added.

For some, the teenager's reasons for joining the armed group can be mundane.

His village in North Cotabato is an instance of government neglect. There are no roads, which some government officials blamed on many years of resistance by the MILF in the area to allow government services to operate in.

The village has been a constant battleground between government troops and Moro rebels. A few meters away is the signature bluish, the stronghold of the MILF.

"We joined the war as a game ... and the battleground is our playground," Abdul said.

Abdul may not be the youngest member of the MILF forward studies indicate that some rebel recruits are as young as 10 years old. Others are even younger girls.

Study on child soldiers

A recent study conducted by the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (Philrights) shows that recruitment of small children to become soldiers are still being practiced by the MILF and other armed groups, such as the communist New People's Army, tribal armed groups, and even the government-backed Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and other paramilitary units.

Chiqui Bautista-sores, Philrights research associate, said the study covered 21 areas all over the country for Mindanao, it covered the provinces of North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur.

Philrights was established in July 1995 by the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Philad). It seeks to promote and disseminate information, research and analyses about human rights.

In Mindanao, Bautista-sores said, the researchers were able to interview two child soldiers serving the CAFGU, 24 children serving the MNLF, and 10 children serving the MILF.

Female recruits

"Based on the research, we found that most child soldiers are male and they are doing militant tasks, even at their young ages, which means they are combatants or fighters," Bautista-sores said.

She noted that the female recruits were doing auxiliary jobs, which included serving as messengers and spies.

Poverty and government neglect topped the reasons that lured children to join armed groups, Bautista-sores said.

"These children are living in very depressed areas. It is completely devoid with government assistance, the government failed to give enough assistance to these villages, especially in the fields of health, livelihood and education," she said.

Because of that, she said, they were left with no option but to join the armed group as the movement appeared very fascinating to them.

Another reason, Bautista-sores said, was family background. Archbishop rebel parents or relatives is most likely influenced into joining the movement.

She said most of the child soldiers interviewed had histories of abuse and atrocities in the hands of the military.

In the case of the MILF, the most prominent reason is the belief of the child soldiers in the ideology and advocacy for liberation through a holy war (jihad).

'Invisible' group

Citing a 1999 report of the International Labor Organization-International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC), Bautista-sores said "It is estimated that children in every community influenced or controlled by any armed group were soldiers.

There are no actual statistics of children involved in various armed movements, she said.

"We pointed out that it was very difficult to know the exact figure because the child soldiers have developed an 'invisible nature.'

"We have what we call the invisibleness of the child soldiers in the Philippines, we have the phenomenon of part-time child part-time soldiers," she said.

"When it is school season, the child soldiers are studying, leaving their arms in the camps. They live like ordinary children, but when the school is over, they go back to the armed groups and serve as child soldiers again," Bautista-sores said.

"That is an issue that needs attention and resolution from the government and other concerned agencies," she stressed.

Age limit

Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), state parties shall refrain from recruiting any person under the age of 15 into the armed forces.

A study, titled "Child Soldiers in the Philippines" and undertaken by Medilas Mukhlarra of the International Labor Affairs Service Department of Labor and Employment, indicated that when the MILF established its stronghold, Camp Abubakar, in Maguindanao, it "trained child soldiers as ordinary preparedness.

It quoted the late MILF Chair Hashim Salamat as saying that the rebel group "is planning the need of struggle in the minds of young people as their future generation will be able to fight for freedom if it doesn't come in our lifetime. We want to find peaceful solutions ... but we have to prepare ourselves to fight."

MILF policy

In an interview, Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said children are not actually allowed to carry arms, except for those who were orphaned by war who has access to the camps.

"These children have made life in the camps—trainings and education—as their way of life. They are left with no one to watch over them and we cannot just allow them to live their lives ... they better stay in our camps," Kabalu said.

While admitting that the MILF has child soldiers, Kabalu said they were not allowed to be on the frontline. He said the major rebel front has at least a "couple of dozens" of child soldiers.

Asked to comment on the UNCHR's statement about child soldiers, he said: "We are talking of two totally different worlds here."

Worth the sacrifice?

"What we are concerned as it is very essential to us is our future and our children ... the life of the Bangsamoro. The Bangsamoro people's perspective and definition of age, of infant or adult, is very different from theirs," Kabalu said.

For Abdul, fighting for the independence of the Bangsamoro people is worth every sacrifice he has gone through.

He admitted that, in a way, his current father arrangement keeps him busy all the time to go to school and play.

"But going to school and having time to play is nothing (no temporary happiness) ... those things would all be worthless without our freedom. I don't need to go to school," Abdul said.

"I don't have personal dues anymore. What I know is that we have to be free."

Farmer points at ex-cop as killer of journalist

By Johnre B. Rabanilan
(The Visayan Herald)

CEBU CITY—A farmer pointed to the first prosecution witness in the murder of Dipolog City journalist Edgar Damalerio yesterday identified former policeman Guillermo Wapille as Damalerio's assailant.

Edgar Bongon, 35, a resident of San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur, testified before Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 19 Judge Ramon Cadilla that he was in the company of Damalerio and saw Wapille, a used-to-be a handgun, shoot the journalist and hit him in the face.

Wapille was accused of shooting Edgar Damalerio, managing editor of the Mindanao Scout and radio commentator of dxRU on May 13, 2002, in Pagadian City while the journalist was driving his jeep.

Bongon told the court that he knew Wapille because they were barrio neighbors in San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur.

Bongon said he was a friend of Damalerio because the journalist helped him in April 2002 on his complaint against his colleagues allegedly in connivance of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in his hometown.

Damalerio, the witness said, had a call to stop the kill collection.

Bongon said he tagged along with Damalerio on May 9, 2002, after the journalist expressed fears for his life.

Two months without pay based on an administrative complaint filed by Elma Guanzon, instructor of CAS's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Lawyer Pedro Gubaton, the complainant's counsel, questioned why the Commission on Higher Education has not yet implemented the suspension order, 45 days after it was issued.

Granzon is a cousin Perez and Acosta of several acts of harassment, which include the delayed releasing of her performance evaluation and the downgrading of her scores of outplacement. Perez pressured to temporary. This demotion had supposedly prevented her from getting items from heading up to Cebu.

Granzon also allegedly ordered the withholding of the salaries of Granzon's and her husband.

"We find that the evidence of guilt against [Perez] is strong and that the same constitutes grave misconduct and oppression if [he] is so proven," the suspension order said. —With reports from Sun.Star Cebu

2 school execs defy Ombudsman

DAVAO CITY—Two officials of a university here have continued to report for work despite an order from the Office of the Ombudsman suspending them, the business leaders on Friday.

In an April 14 decision, the Ombudsman ordered the preventive suspension without pay of Roger Perez and Fe Acosta, president and vice president of the Cagayan State University (CSU) for alleged grave misconduct and oppression of one of their faculty members.

Perez, however, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, contended the two officials he

OPLAN BALIK-ESKWELA

READY NA ANG LAHAT PARA SA JUNE 6!

SA DARATING NA PASUKAN, SIGURADUHING MAKAPAPASOK ANG ATING MGA KABATAAN.

Prioridad ng DepED na siguruhing makapapasok nang maayos ang mga kabataan sa pagbubukas ng eskwela sa June 6.

Kasama ang iba't-ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan, kapulisan, mga LGU at pribadong kumpanya, pinaghahandaan ng DepED ang kaayusan ng darating na pasukan.

✓ **Lahat ng bata ay puwedeng mag-enroll ng walang anumang kailangan bayaran**

- **Hindi obligado** ang mga magulang na **magbayad para mag-enroll.**
- **Ibinabawal ang kontribusyon** sa Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Arti-TB, Red Cross at PTCA.
- Hindi ito kondisyon para mag-enroll, makapag-exam, kumuha ng report card at tumapos ng pasaralan.
- Hindi na puwedeng tumanggap ng bayad ang mga guro o anumang opisyal ng paaralan.

✓ **Handa na ang mga classroom at school building.**

- **Maymaan tayong 2-shift policy.** Upang makuyanan ang kakulangan ng mga classroom. Aalamang tamang oras ng pagpasok ang mga ito. Sa ganitong paraan, hindi na mamamong bata ang makapapasok ngayong taon.
- **Scholarship sa private school o "Education Service Contracting".** Nagkaan ng P1.5 bilyon ang pamahalaan para makapasok sa pribadong high school ang mahigit na 315,000 na estudyante. Kulib sa magandang pampublikong high school.
- **Dagdag na classroom.** May nakatakdang P2 bilyon para sa 6,000 classrooms. (General Appropriations). May karagdagang 3,000 classrooms ang napatayo at ipinatatayo mula sa mga LGUs at iba't ibang programa ng DepED tulad ng *Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP), at Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM).* Nakapagpagawa tayo ng mga bagong school buildings mula sa higit P1.1 bilyon na nalalaang kontribusyon sa 'Adopt-a-School'.
- **Mallnis at maayos na ang mga pasaralan.** Mahigit 26,000 pasaralan ang nakilahok sa Brigada Eskwela. Umabot sa P1 bilyon ang halaga ng kabuntaryong tulong ng mga guro, magulang, mag-aaral at ng komunidad para sa pagpapaayos at paglilinis ng mga pasaralan.
- **Sa pamamagitan ng Bagip Eskwela**, nakatayo ang halos 750 classrooms at binayan ang 128 na bagong classrooms sa mga lugar ka nasalanta ng bagyo mong nakaraang taon.

✓ **Handa na ang mga guro.**

- Nakahanda ang DepED kumuha ng **10,000 na bagong guro**.
- **May mahigit na pamantayan** sa pagpili ng mga bagong guro.
- **Isinasaayos ang distribusyon ng mga guro sa buong bansa**. Ilipat sa mga lugar sa may kakulangan ang mga guro galing sa mga lugar na may sobrang guro.
- Sa pamamagitan ng **2-shift policy** at ESC, lalo pang mababawasan ang kakulangan sa guro.
- Tumatalong ang maraming LGUs sa pamamagitan ng pagbabayad ng **Local School Board teachers** sa kanilang lugar.

✓ **Handa na ang mga textbooks.**

- **Maling libro, napalitan na.** Ang libromg ilipat ay napalitan na ng bagong libro—Kalikasanang Asyano, Kasaysayan at Kultura.
- May nakalaan na **P815 milyon para sa mga aklat** para sa 17 milyong estudyante.
- Ang lahat ng libro na ginagamit sa mga pasaralan ay patuloy nating pinag-aaralan para matiyakang ang anumang kamalian.

✓ **Handa na rin tayo sa bagyo.**

Nakikipag-ugnayan ang DepED sa PAGASA para sa tamang pag-wasti ng tayay ng panahon upang maiklyan ng sapat na babala ang mga mag-aaral.

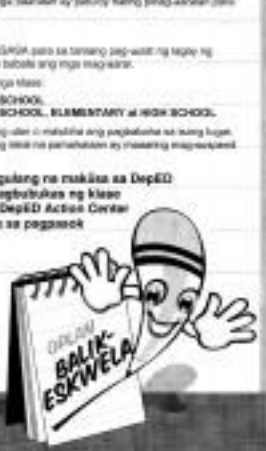
Ito ang patakaran sa suspensyon ng mga klase:

Signal #1 Walang pasok ang PRE-SCHOOL
Signal #2 Walang pasok ang PRE-SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY at HIGH SCHOOL

Kung walang bagyo ngunit malakas ang ulan o mataluha ang pagbabaha sa isang lugar, ang Division Superintendent o mayor ng lokal na pamahalaan ay maaaring magpasyang di klase.

Inaasyahan namin ang mga magulang na makiisa sa DepED upang maiksyuring maayos ang pagbubukas ng klase ngayong taon. Ipagbigay-alam sa DepED Action Center ang anumang reklamo o problema sa pagpasok ng mga bata.

Tara sa! Balik-Eskwela sa!



DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DEPED INFO-ACTION CENTER
TEL : 638-1663 • 632-1361 to 71
FAX : 638-2641
CELL : 09166000827

DETxt: SMART–262 • GLOBE–2327
EMAIL: action@deped.gov.ph

₱15 confirms 'jueteng,' leads to cops' sacking

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVEN B. AMO

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two police officers in Central Luzon were fired after antigambling agents confirmed the continued collection of "jueteng" bets and seized P15 from a bet collector.

Insp. Epafrodito Aliling, acting police chief of Meycauayan, and PO3 Nick Aspelli, intelligence chief, were recalled to this regional police headquarters to face investigation pending the filing of administrative charges, according to Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, chief of the regional task force against illegal gambling.

The cause of their relief was a P15-bet seized by task force members from a collector at the public market in Barangay Saluysoy there on Friday morning, Palad said.

The collector was getting bets for a jueteng variant, *loteng*, whose winning numbers were based on the numbers drawn for the government-run lotto.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, earlier imposed a "one strike policy" on the police crackdown on jueteng.

Under the policy, police officials in towns and cities where jueteng operations persist would be relieved if a raid turned positive. Three positive raids will mean the relief of the provincial police director.

Supt. Fernando Villanueva, Meycauayan police chief, was spared the axe as he was on leave to recuperate from injuries that he suffered from a recent car accident.

Senior Supt. Benedict Michael Fokno, Bulacan police director, said the suspect, a woman, was one of the displaced jueteng personnel in the town who tried to collect bets to earn money for her children's school needs.

The two officers were relieved as reports about the continued collection of bets for jueteng reached higher officials. ***Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

ROUNDUP

Help for 'jueteng' collectors

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan 2nd District Rep. Abraham Mitra said the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and not the welfare department is the agency that could help jobless "jueteng" collectors. Last week, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said her agency had prepared a P5-million livelihood program for jueteng collectors who had become jobless because of the government's efforts to crack down on the illegal numbers game in the country. But Mitra said the DSWD should focus on those who badly need assistance. He said PCSO could be of help since it derives its income from legal games of chances.

Jofelle P. Tasorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 rebels slain in clash

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—Two communist rebels were killed in an hour-long clash with government soldiers early Friday near the boundary of Andabuen and Nacalma villages in Benito Soliven town, a military official said. Col. Hilario Atendido, 5th Infantry Division chief of staff, said the slain rebels, who have yet to be identified, belonged to the central front of the New People's Army Cagayan Valley regional party committee. He said no one was hurt among the soldiers from the 45th Infantry Battalion who exchanged gunfire with 30 rebels at around 6 a.m.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mom, 3 kids drown

ROXAS CITY—A 28-year-old mother and all of her three children drowned after they were swept away by a strong water current while they were crossing a knee-deep creek in Dumalag, Capiz late Monday afternoon. Residents first recovered the body of Sarah Firma, of Barangay Sta. Teresa in Dumalag, a few hours after the drowning, the town police said. The Dumalag police said the creek's water swelled after a heavy downpour earlier that day caused the Panay River, which is adjacent to the creek, to overflow. The bodies of Eimee, 7, and Arvin, 5, were recovered by residents the following day several meters from the creek. The body of year-old Ivy was found floating in Pontevedra town on Wednesday afternoon, some 50 km from Dumalag.

Felipe V. Celiro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Child, 11, missing

RIZAL, Laguna—Police authorities have issued a "flash alarm" on the whereabouts of an 11-year-old girl who has been reported missing since May 29 in Barangay Talaga, Rizal, Laguna. Investigation showed that Kathleen Xyzha Y. Limuaco, a resident of West Poblacion, Rizal, Laguna, was asked by her parents at 1 p.m. on May 29 to fetch her younger brother but Limuaco failed to return home. The victim's parents said Limuaco was wearing *maong* short pants and colored striped blouse with black collar. She has a pinkish birthmark on her left knee. The finder is requested to inform the Rizal Municipal Police Office.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Medical mission in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes joined the festivities of the recent city fiesta here not with bands and fireworks but with a free medical treatment. More than 20 doctors and nurses from the Philippine Heart Center treated more than 200 indigent patients, most of them suffering from all kinds of heart disease. Ador Culing, a staff member of Nantes, said they distributed more than P300,000 worth of free medicines to the patients.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Unified probe sought

From page A1

Whyte is the Senate deputy majority having received monthly payoffs through kickbacks.

All four have denied Mayor's claim.

"I don't need to go to Congress to hurt Mayor because it would be embarrassed for me to testify before the Senate, "Salcedo said.

He said that because jueteng was "a political issue, politicians can easily rake in [it], which could turn off prospective whistle-blowers.

"But in the hands of organized criminal justice, more [witnesses] would come forward," he said.

Singapore Dragapate Archbishop Oscar Cruz, an initiating member, had earlier said the racket had become a P2-billion-a-year enterprise under the Arroyo administration.

Ala Starr

Salcedo said another alternative to the four ongoing investigations would be an independent commission similar to that formed by then Commission Secretary Starr to look into the Morion Lewinsky scandal.

"Starr gather built a case against US President Bill Clinton," Salcedo said. "It was well-researched and well-documented with taped depositions and financial records. It was a well-argued, tight case that got Clinton impeached by the Lower House."

Salcedo said the proposed truth commission could "target long-time suspected jueteng lords and act as a strong example that [they] can be caught."

He said it was about time the age-old issue of jueteng was confronted.

"We just have too many open wounds that divide and prevent us from putting up a united front... We cannot even lay to rest the ghost of [President] Marcos and martial law," he said.

Shame campaign

But when it comes to urging congress court and for all, Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba said he knows exactly how to do that.

Mamba said the business is a phone interview that the once-widespread operation of the illegal numbers game in his hometown of Tuao and the rest of Cagayan's third district was stopped by a nationwide community effort and cooperation.

Mamba, who admitted that his family was engaged in jueteng operations in the 1990s, said the best way to topple the racket was to employ a shame campaign so the police and newspaper that was shown to be involved and the media.

He said he fought jueteng through billboards put up all over his district and by speaking against it on radio, TV and the newspapers.

Mamba said a "successful" police drive against jueteng should be launched in manner that it would not survive.

He reminded that there was no "one-size-fits-all" against jueteng, but said it could be stopped through a combination of efforts involving the government organizations, the media and other antijueteng crusaders.

"Those police officials and government leaders have ... reputations to protect, so they will turn away from jueteng once they are exposed to the public," he said.

Don't legalize it

Mamba said the proposed legalization of jueteng was not the best way to solve the problem of illegal gambling.

He said some operators would still find a way to pool resources to run illegal operations to challenge legalized jueteng.

"Making [jueteng] legal will only give birth to another rash of corruption. Some politicians may be tempted to partner illegal game operators [because of the payoffs]. The problem will remain and will never be solved," he said.

Besides, he said, legalizing jueteng was "easier said than done" and "impossible to do."

"It's hoping fruitless efforts, exception can possibly come to," he said.

Mamba proposed that jueteng instead be decriminalized, with the government allowing it to be run like ordinary bingo and card games in the neighborhood.

In such a situation, he said, policemen and local officials would have no legal basis to conduct raids and demand protection money from operators.

Buying silence

Mamba said jueteng did not survive in the third district of Cagayan after he assumed office in 2001 because of his strong opposition to it.

He said jueteng lords usually buy the lawmakers' silence on operations to their areas.

The offer could range from P500,000 to P900,000 for the initial payoff, and an agreed monthly take, he said.

"Those operators never tried to approach me because they knew that they might be arrested," Mamba said.

"Our fight against graft and corruption, including jueteng, is raising momentum. It pays to work for the people's welfare," he said.

Aguinaldo

Mamba, who belongs to a political clan in Cagayan, said he was able to stop jueteng operations in his town of Tuao in 1992 when he was elected mayor.

In 1998, he lost to former Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo in the third congressional district race. Aguinaldo's brother Jose Lutz, he failed against Aguinaldo's brother Jose Lutz, he failed against Aguinaldo's brother Jose Lutz, he failed against

GMA shrugs off scandals, vows more reforms

From page A1

cost effective hope for the future."

Ms Arroyo said some of that dramatic decline stemmed from factors over which she had no control, such as the rise in oil prices.

Abu Sayyaf that has harbored and received kidnap from the popular but illegal betting numbers game have hurt, too, although she pointed out that the weak peso had aided despite the drama.

The general administration has battled fresh rumors of an impending coup attempt. Such rumors have become a constant in a country where powerful "people power" revolutions have unseated two leaders since 1986.

"Coup rumors are a perennial part of Philippine political life, and they should be totally put to rest once and for all," Ms Arroyo said, while claiming that her opponents only bothered rumormongering from long rants to obtain the release of a Filipino truck driver who had been kidnapped there.

"Together with the United States, we've been supporting our republic and freeing our intelligence in fight terrorism, especially in the south," Ms Arroyo said, adding that Washington continued to provide training and economic support to the Philippine military with millions supported within a few weeks of 50 helicopters.

Borders isolated

"We've been able to consolidate 100 known international terrorists, both those who grew up in the Philippines and those who invaded into the country. We've neutralized about 17 of these terrorists. The Abu Sayyaf is degraded, and we've reduce to one pocket of the Jemaah Islamiyah."

Washington and other allies have expressed concern that Muslim separatist raining camps in the southern Philippines have been used to teach international terrorists how to make bombs.

"They have been isolated and they are the targets of a very focused joint effort with the US," Ms Arroyo said. "Our commitment is total."

She added that the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, involved in peace talks with the government, had agreed "to forsake the terrorist elements."

Fight against corruption

Ms Arroyo said US President George W. Bush had reaffirmed the Philippines' widening ties with China.

"Our relations with China have improved tremendously, and I think they will continue to improve," she said. "Our trade with China has grown by leaps and bounds. It's over $13 billion now from virtually nothing before they entered WTO [World Trade Organization] ... and the balance of trade is almost $5 billion in our favor."

She also touted her administration's efforts to root out endemic corruption—which includes losing Hong Kong anti-corruption crusader Jimmy Lai and crack-down on tax cheats.

"We've had the highest [land] collections and the highest increase in history, and we've also had a budget surplus for the month for the first time in many years," Ms Arroyo said. "And the commissioner of customs called me a few nights ago and gave me a detailed report."

She called the corruption allegations against her family "a well-worn opposition tactic."

"Nonetheless, the charges are serious," she said. "They have to be answered if the air is to be cleared. I have asked for an intensive investigation, and my attitude is let the chips fall where they may."

Leftists call GMA a political sadist

LEFTIST leaders yesterday called President Macapagal-Arroyo a political sadist who should keep her avowed sympathy for the poor to herself.

"President Arroyo is adding insensitivity insult to already grievous injury. Her tears jerkparche does not touch anyone," Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said, reacting to Ms Arroyo's statement the other day that "I feel pain when people feel pain."

Speaking in Bulgaria after an opinion survey showed that her performance rating had dropped to a record low, Arroyo said the pain people were now experiencing was part of the country's climb to economic recovery.

"She and her administration are incapable of even empathizing with the Filipino people and their economic woes and vulnerabilities because this government's policies are at the root of these woes," Beltran said.

"The President is better off shutting up on this matter because she's only digging a deeper hole for herself," Beltran said.

Another uprising

He warned: "We might be seeing yet another people's uprising in the making."

Bayan Muna Dep secretary general Joel Maglunsod was as terrible as Beltran.

"If she can really feel the people's pain then she's exhibiting political sadism," Maglunsod said. "Her four-year leadership brought untold suffering for the majority of the population. She doesn't care if her policies are already hurting the people. She's only concerned with satisfying the urge of big businesses and foreign lending institutions."

Beltran's party-mate Rep. Rafael Mariano, who is the chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said peasant would take part in a planned national day of mourning on June 11 being organized by other groups critical of the way Ms Arroyo was running the country.

"Our patience has dried up with all the hardships the administration has imposed," Mariano said.

On the eve of the June 11 protest, militants will hold "march-floating" rallies in Metro Manila and other regions, he said.

He said June 10 would mark the 17th anniversary of the Cooperdemic Ajuntas Reform Program and the people would march in the streets to protest the administration's failure to implement genuine agrarian reform. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning*

Sunday BIZ

E-mail: sc_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroz-Espino

JUSTO's wife, Nelia, bought the first PestCon spray

Three generations of controlling pests

BSP's Gonzales wants 'co-partners' for PestCon

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, OP Bureau for Small-Scale Industries

THIS is the story of three generations of enterprising men who pioneered in pest control in the country, reshaped it into a total management field, and is now using it to help aspiring entrepreneurs set up their own businesses.

JUSTO Gonzalez Sr., among pest control training in England in 1952

Justo the Patriarch

All Professor Justo Gonzalez wanted to be was to be a good teacher. He taught agronomy at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños. Later, he started the department of entomology at the former Institute of Agriculture, now the Aurora University.

But fate had other plans for him. "You, Justo," he once heard, "with a little human intervention." He means the prodding and the inspiration of his wife.

Professor Gonzalez' wife is Nelia Gonzalez now a top executive of the Tan Yu Group of companies, one of the first Filipino women to make it to the top of the corporate world.

In 1951, Professor Gonzalez took a six-month pest management course in the United Kingdom under the Colombo Plan, where he had a practicum at the Rentokil, at that time the only multinational pest control company doing business in the Philippines.

When he came back, even as he ploughed back what he learned to his classrooms, Nelia encouraged him to start training service technicians on the effective use of pesticides for homes, offices and industrial plants.

Thus Old Position Pest Management and General Services Corp. began. A pioneer in the industry, it will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year.

It was 1-on-man, one operator business then. "I bought the sprayer," Nelia quips. Later, two assistants were hired to service the slowly growing clientele.

In the '60s, the company's first big break came. It was able to penetrate the US embassy staff, who wanted to have their homes treated. By the '70s, it was fielding 20 technicians, mostly to a industrial customer base.

Didi, the Innovator

It soon was the turn, Alfredo "Didi" Gonzalez, third son and fourth of six children of Justo and Nelia, followed his father's footsteps.

He allowed himself to be talked out of taking his graduate course, economics, and enrolled in agriculture at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, "to order to please Dad."

After graduation, he also went to the United Kingdom, to study stored product entomology at the Tropical Products Institute. The insect that he studied insects that attack grains, flour, tobacco, furniture and others.

When Didi joined Pestcon in 1979 full time, he ushered in a period of innovation and growth.

Didi had to shrink up the ranks, starting up an ordinary technician, then trying his hand at estimating, pricing and negotiations. It took seven years before he made it as CEO and general manager.

Under his leadership, the company's threat was not so much pest control as pest management. He also had in place modern management systems that kept the organization lean but maximized its services.

Pest control customers are of particular. On the other hand, pest management refers to the use of a wholistic approach, including sanitation, good housekeeping, good management prac-

>story on

WHAT'S INSIDE

Taking the path less traveled by the youth /B2

Hoping fairy tales do come true /B2

1,500 families earn through rattan craft

GRANEGAN CITY—At least 1,500 farm families and agricultural workers in four towns and one city in Nueva Ecija have found a steady source of income from their contracts on woven rattan crafts.

The workers, according to Brigida Pil, provincial director of the Department of Trade and Industry in Nueva Ecija, have been recruited by four trade groups which have entered [illegible] contracts with a furniture firm in Clark Field in Pampanga.

She said many of the farm families earn at least P3,000 a week for the woven crafts they [illegible] sub-contractors every week.

The woven rattan craft works are farmed out through sub-contracts by the Golden Cane Furniture Development Corp., which exports chairs, stools, newspaper racks and candle holders.

The products' frames, along with the split rattan, are distributed to the workers and [illegible] labor by the sub-contractors after the weaving jobs are finished.

These are then delivered by the sub-contractors to the firm's 20-hectare plant in Pampanga. The sub-contractors are the Golden Cup Development Corp. in Carmen Municipal area, Nueva Ecija, Better Country Commerce Corp. in Cagan City, Ruby Cabinet Handicrafts in Cabiao town, and Mansueto's Rattan Craft in San Buenaventura.

These sub-contractors, which provide capital for the initial funds needed for the job contracts, have proved that sub-contracting can work to our fair business, Pil said. —Anneliese Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Taking the path less traveled by the youth

By Trina A. Laguro
Contributor

WHEN almost all graduating students of her batch were gunning for high paying jobs in the corporate world, their 23-year-old Cebuana friend opted to steer away from that race and chase a dream and toward a road less traveled by those her age.

Cello wanted to run her own business.

"I asked my parents' permission and asked for more! If it's ok for me to start a business instead of applying for jobs. She said ok," Cello says in Filipino.

Her family supported her. Her mother, Julie, said her she did not mind it as long as Cello was willing to take the risks.

On July 10, 2004, just three months after her graduation, "cello's doughnuts & dips" came to be. She set it up along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, just right across her alma mater, Ateneo de Manila University.

Starting a doughnut shop amid warnings of a looming financial crisis in the country did not deter her from going ahead with her plans. Some people were even skeptical about the path she had taken.

"But I didn't see anything. I'm an optimist kasi," she says.

No one could doubt the resolve of this girl who is a confessed doughnut lover, and who likes to bake and cook. At first, Cello dreamed of running her own bakeshop because she wanted to become a bread chef.

But I realized there was a potential for doughnuts in Katipunan. So beyond, I would go on different phases just to buy doughnuts. Besides I [be] near Katipunan so I just 'walk to my shop,' she says.

Now, the 23-year-old entrepreneur is busy with the opening of her second branch along Taft Avenue, in front of De La Salle University. The opening is on the first week of June.

"A lot have been requesting for one more branch because many have to come all the way to Katipunan which is far from some locations. So, sabi ko it's about time na siguro na lumayo tayo."

Uniquely Cello's

What makes Cello's doughnuts stand out in? Just three are cooked without adding any coloring and preservatives.

"We don't use them in our doughnuts," she says.

In strawberry flavor, for instance, she uses fresh strawberries. Takes any color light pink lang. Depende sa strawberries na nabili namin."

She doesn't want her doughnuts to be too sweet and too heavy. "It's light and soft when you eat it," she says.

Cello's doughnuts offers a different variety of flavors like Oreo, chocnuts, M&Ms, peanut butter, strawberries & chocolates, and blueberry cream cheese, among others. She sells the doughnuts for P16 a piece or P68 for a box of six.

"But customers can also order a dip, like Tablerenz, to go with their doughnuts. She says dips are especially recommended with bunny glazed & shaped and pillows.

Family affair

Customers of all ages, not just students, flock to her doughnut shop. Families would come and would hang out at her place. One evening these heroines, what she says, "a family thing."

Although, the place is small because she shares it with her mother's business, customers do not mind. Sometimes, Cello says, people would wait for their take-out while dining with the neighbors.

Cello is helped in running the business by her family and boyfriend. If there are too many customers, her mother assists in taking the orders.

His father, on the other hand, does the dishing while she gets some time from her oldest sister. Her boyfriend took the photos that now adorn the orange wall, accentuated by the orange lights, of the doughnut shop. Orange is her favorite color. Her favorite at the Taft branch is her boyfriend.

"Cello is shy. She hides if there are so many people. Hindi, say 'Mama, so many people.' So, Mommy takes over. Mommy takes orders, sage customer ng sisidlan," her mom says.

Cello needs her mom's help especially when executing tough decisions such as hiring an employee.

"Mommy, there. I do not. There are things I cannot do and I let my mom do it (her use)," Cello says. They manage at least 10 employees.

"Most of our employees are somehow related to each other—like the guard is the husband of the cashier/waitress in other businesses this is discouraged but here we allow it," Cello says.

Her mother chose, though, that the last say about her business should be Cello's.

"We make suggestions but she will always be the one who's making a decision," says mother Julie.

Her mother nonetheless has praises with how much effort Cello puts in her business and her faith in God.

"She's been so blessed. Every thing we do, we pray first to God together. Kasi nga what can we do without God?" her mom says.

Not an 8-hour job

Although managing your own business means having no boss, and no specific time to report for work, it is harder than being employed.

"Walang day-off except Christmas, Nov. 1. Ako's mind is free [from worries] during her rest day. So, on the other hand, still always be thinking about new products, labor issues, how to improve the system such as making the service faster, whether to franchise or not. Its endless. I was not able to sleep when we were starting. I thought it was easier but it's really hard to...I even dream about the business," Cello says.

But the excitement and the challenge of running a business is worth the stress.

"It's not the same thing every day. It's different. Like now, its for the opening of Taft and there are a lot of new experiences. I am constantly thinking of new flavors, experimenting. It is exciting," she says.

Her mother reveals that Cello is even interested in taking up architecture because her mom is always conversation and design in the house.

"But now I have a limited budget...I do everything including interior designs and the furniture. Conversation is exciting. There's so much I can do. But right now, I have to concentrate on the opening of [the]," Cello says.

To relieve herself from every day pressures and stress, what Cello does is dance even in front of other people. Her ballet lessons when she was a child indeed paid off. She also plays the guitar and the flute.

She's shy girl who is a businessbody is open to constant succeeding business, but for now to doughnut she is focusing on.

Her mom says they're still thinking about franchising because it entails a big responsibility to "We are willing putting the such responsibilities," Julie says.

Cello shares ago doesn't matter when one wants to open a new business just as long as you enjoy it.

"I enjoy it. The biggest fulfillment is seeing people eat [my doughnuts] and they enjoy it. To be successful, you should believe in the products that you are selling and it wouldn't be that difficult."

CELLO says her doughnuts don't have preservatives

CELLO Santos and John Tangle

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Three generations...

JEYPEE Cabobos wins a paradigm shift for company uniqueness

(Turn page 83)

the co-partnership will begin as a joint venture. Podcon will provide 20 percent of the equity, in the form of the "big ticket equipment". . . When the small company stabilizes, it will buy Podcon out.

"The pie is big," Bob reckons. The market can accommodate many more players. There are only two kinds of homes in any "thing boom" at Yang moments.

Who can qualify to be co-partners? Almost anyone, Bob says. Anyone willing to put in money and time and to strive manage and be hands on managers. "He doesn't need technical background, nor from Podcon. We can train him. His consistency with zero service orientation as workers and for non-door neighbors as customer base."

Bob thinks that the co-partnership scheme is foul proof. "The only way it will fail is when shown partners wanna in bad."

Jeypee, a promise for a paradigm shift

Last year, Jeypee Gonzalez Cabobos eldest son of Dolly sister Jessie, joined the Pest Control Technician Training Course at Yang Technical Manpower, where almost is overall preparatory graduates.

At 22, he is the company's technical sales manager. Like Bob, he found his the route from the bottom to prepare him for higher responsibility. Jeypee chose his age (to it up and take it easy, an ordinary day for Jeypee is making sales to prospective clients, making face-to-face sales demos and presentations, supervising logging, and termination of paper work.

He still has a lot to learn , he says, from his grandpa, his uncle, the senior managers, the rank and file. Someday, he, too, would like to make a mark on the company. He thinks it might be in the field of business-to-customer development. Already he has designed and implemented training programs on the "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Technicians" and "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Pronouncers" using the principles made famous by Stephen Covey.

Early on, he has realized that working is not just for the money but also for the sense of fulfillment, the feeling of surpassing one's boundaries. If he could share this paradigm shift with others, especially Podcon people, he would be happy for sure.

His uncle Bob, listens to this and winks...as though to say the torch would be passed from grandparents when time comes.

School out the OP FOR SERIOUS's one day "Paperwarrior Course on Entrepreneurship" on June 24 and the Manager's Course starting on July 16. Please call tel. 5287878-799

Woman finds fortune in Faeries

JUST some of the hand-crafted products sold at Faeries.

By Alexa N. Basay

IT MAY have been the fortune telling, or her belief in mysterious beings that brought her luck.

"Before I resigned, my horoscope was read by three different manghuhula," Peggy Bosa said. "According to them, there were dwarfs in my backyard and three beings will make me rich."

Peggy resigned from Mondragon Phils. 15 years ago, ending her 16-year stint there as production manager for cosmetics. She went on to try her luck in business with relatives in mind—Aunties.

Peggy thought she would never get sick while she was still employed by a company.

In 1999, Peggy set up her first business which she called Faeries Inc.

The products she had in mind were mostly fragrances and personal care products intended for the younger market.

Added value

She first came up with a set of cologne products called Sugar and Spice.

Three constant of three different scents in one container. The containers can be used as storage for clips or as golf ordinances.

Peggy wanted to reach out to a younger market who wanted a product with added value.

She consigned her products to the SM and Landmark department stores. The products quickly sold out. Soon after, she developed other personal care products.

Going with the trend, Peggy went into the then booming direct selling business. But after six years, Peggy's company revenues total a fifth of uncollected accounts and that prompted her to turn to other things.

Last year, the thought of trying out something new. Still with her beloved fairies in mind, she set up a fairie store at the new Public Mart along Pasong Tamo.

She called her new business, Kyalin and Other Faeries Corp.

"I learned that [Malvar Mart] was opening, so I applied," said Peggy. "I wanted a concept store where we will sell fairy-themed products for the same market...young ladies, even those young at heart."

Since the mall is fairly new, few people have seen what it has to offer. Peggy thought that her shop

PEGGY Bosa's world made colorful by fairies. The mural is painted by Ber Bacalso.

Woman finds fortune in Faeries

From page B3

on the fifth floor needed to be noticed.

On her to-do list were the holding of fairy tale reading sessions for kids on weekends, and art workshops by Fine Arts UP professor, Bim Bacaltos, who also did the mural for the store.

"What we're doing is, we're trying to create awareness ... for the store. We ... try to entice people into coming to Walter Mart and visiting the fifth floor," said Peggy.

Peggy noticed that shoppers flock to the mall on weekdays. But on weekends, people only tend to go to the supermarket on the second floor. So she thought of doing these activities for kids on a continuing basis.

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Products for men, too

On sale at Sylphs are colognes, hand and body moisturizers, hand sanitizers and cosmetics—all formulated by Peggy. Each set has different scents.

What's surprising is that she also has a line of products for men, too, which she called the Freshman honors' class. These consist of cologne, perfume and bath products.

The store also offers a refilling station, where people can purchase products at less than half their original price, so long as they bring their Faeries containers with them.

There are also hand crafted earrings and pendants, and novelty items like pixie dust, candle holders, clocks, figurines and hand painted T-shirts designed by artists.

Asked what she wanted to pop into people's minds once Faeries store was mentioned, Peggy said: I'd like them to think of a place na *medyo iba* [somewhat different]."

She added that she would want people to think of her products not just as commodities, but as things with "mystical" properties.

"That's why I keep on asking people who come, 'O, how do you find it, how do you like the store?'" she said. "I want [the customers] to feel good about coming in."

Sometimes she tells people that they don't have to buy anything. They can just come in and try the products, she said.

"I just want you to try them, and then later on, if you think you would want to buy them, go ahead," she said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2005

Lilac Chelo Baral-Formoso

THOUGH they have to rehearse for a school program in the middle of a street, these kids are glad to receive their clothes.

'Arming' Mindanao's youth

Text and photos by Linda B. Subido

QUIETLY, without guns and bombs, another war is being waged in Mindanao. Concerned and committed adults are intent on "arming" the youth of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), providing them with the most potent weapon any person could have—education.

After all, that knowledge is power is as true today as it was centuries ago when Francis Bacon first expressed the thought.

In many parts of Mindanao, particularly

A YOUNG boy does his class work in his kalutà's hi-rises.

FROM drawing pens and gammon, children have started to draw happier images.

SCHOOL officials from different ARMM provinces at the launch of Knowledge Channel in Maguindanao

'Arming' Mindanao youth

ELEMENTARY school students in Zone Pagbo watch a satellite broadcast of supplementary lessons.

Knowledge Channel is one of the latest groups to aim to help facilitate learning in underserved areas in southern Philippines

FLOODED schools in long-ago is still much better than making 2-7 years the same center of Pagbangan

PNU hosts multimedia educational center

THE PHILIPPINE Normal University now hosts a new multi-media center called the Ilaw Bulan eLearning Resource that intends to improve classroom teaching.

The P2.8-million Ilaw Bulan e-Resource Center is equipped with lasers, the country's first locally developed interactive multimedia application for classroom and teacher training.

The PNU was chosen as one of the centers by the Ilaw Learning System since it is the flagship university for teacher education in the country.

"Empowering PNU with Ilaw-will help in the Philippine education into global e-learning, which is essential for us to produce globally competitive graduates," says Jose Ma. T. Pulicos jr., vice president of Ilaw Learning Systems.

Ilaw features extensive interactive and content in the areas of Science, Math and English. It is a teacher-empowering software, that is easy to use and customize. It also complements existing textbook materials.

The center includes features of Ilaw: allows teacher to customize instructions of different subject matter.

Students will appreciate Ilaw because it is engaging and interactive. It has highly visual content, with extensive video and audio clips, colorful graphics, charts and animations, interactive simulations and challenging exercises and quizzes.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Bea Valdes bag lands in Vogue

BEAUTIFUL Bea in the coming July 2003 issue of Philippine Tatler. Photo by Raymond Isaac inspired by Ingres' "Odalisque"

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton Xavi Diego

HOT breaking news—Bea Valdes in Vogue magazine. The June issue of US Vogue (with Salma Hayek on the cover), the world's most authoritative fashion bible, has heralded the work of one of our own, bag designer Bea Valdes. Vogue gives Bea's creation the coveted imprimatur as "the year's must-have evening bag."

To receive such praise and distinction from **Anna Wintour** and her fashion editors is the achievement of a lifetime many designers seek, perhaps because it is the best cliché to envision Jean Shrimpton, Twiggy, Diana Ross and Phoenix Schneider's stature, thanks to backing of the editrix.

Now how did Bea land in the Vogue pages? She told us that a Vogue editor chanced upon her website (www.beavaldes.com) and asked to see the bags.

Bea, with Daniel Arsham Stockpiece and her sisters flew to New York to personally bring the bags. They went to the Vogue office and the editor-in-chief her delicately hand-beaded and jewel-encrusted evening bags that drop immediately to the floor in photo shoot with Bea two days later.

"They were the most efficient team. At the shoot they brought in two racks of clothes and 20 pairs of shoes for me to choose from," she says.

At the Vogue homes, Bea is seen wearing a Chloe dress and holding one of her precious bags. Vogue fashion writer Irini Arakas writes, "The bag exuded a grand gooey glamour that is essentially Valdes," referring to Bea's personal style. Bea also tells us that the Vogue editors arranged for the buyers of Barney's New York and other high-end retail stores to view the bags. Barney's immediately placed orders.

"On the elevator after my meeting, my sisters and I were just screaming and jumping, almost doing cartwheels," Bea giggles.

Congratulations, Bea! We can't help but be proud of your accomplishments.

A spa is born

On reports in Mactan Shangri-La Island Resort in Cebu—I was privileged to be one of the persons to be invited to the still-to-be-opened Chi spa at Mactan Shangri-La Island Resort and Spa in Cebu, and experienced what is going to be the benchmark of all spas in the country.

Chi is the largest spa resort in Asia, occupying more than 30,000 sq m. It has open-air treatment pavilions, private suites and villas, meditation gardens, even a pavilion dedicated for water therapy. Its interiors are inspired by the Shangri-La legend. Relaxation sessions blend with Filipino nuances. There are numerous treatments to choose from such as stone massage, deep-cleansing scrubs and even one very own Bobo combined with Ayurvedic and Chinese medicine. Spa cuisine, as well as therapeutic and lifestyle consultation services, are available to achieve physical, mental and spiritual well being.

I have had firsthand experience and can't wait to get back. My cousin, Linda Ho Montalvo, was just there to celebrate the birthday of her friend, who had invited 150 persons from Hong Kong and other parts of the world, and all of them could not stop raving about it. Chi Spa Village is opening at the end of the month, so you better reserve now.

Call Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort Cebu at (63 32) 231-0288 or visit www.shangri-la.com/cebu.

Last part of my Paris trip

The Legion of Honour Award—I has been two months since my Paris trip and I still can't stop talking about it. One of the reasons I went to Paris was again the invitation of Asia's high fashion empress, Josee Ma, as she was to receive France's highest award to a civilian: the Legion of Honour Award. The high-profile guests flew in from all over the world, for this special three-day event.

The first night was a dinner at Asprey's home (right above her Jason Gallery, a museum that showcases the best of Asia) at the Palais Royal. The next day was the conferring of the award. Guests included Kenzo, Missoni, 5-carat pear Brian Dawson, Andrew Pickhaver, Baroness Lydia Bunn to the International Herald Tribune's grand lady Suzy Menkes.

I was introduced to the lady and I told her I was from the Philippines. She answered, "Oh the Philippines. Do you have a fashion week there as well?"

I said, "Unfortunately we don't have one." She replied with her English accent, "Oh...

BEAUTIFUL LADIES. Rebecca Maes, Tina Ocampo, Suzie Orman, Bonnie Gokson and Dodo Zobel

A SPA IS BORN. Chi Spa at the Mactan Shangri-la Island resort and Spa in Cebu opens in June.

Bea Valdes bag lands in Vogue

JOYCE Ma receiving the Legion of Honor award from the French government

From page C3

In the evening, Joyce gave a gala dinner at one of Paris' grand hotels, the Crillon. She asked her guests to come dressed in Orientalia. It was a magnificent four-course meal and had Joyce's signature style as she flew in her own silverware and china, and candelabras were hoisted from Baccarat. All of that were ushered at, or not done, by the Hotel Crillon, but since it was Madame Ma, as she is fondly called, an exception was made.

During the dinner, several luminaries honored Joyce. The Vietnamese singer Lalia led "We Are with Love" (note: I sang a song for her. It consists of the touching speeches sung by singer Bonnie Gokson and Alain Elhaz, the incredibly talented head designer of Lanvin. He said, "Joyce you have remained constant. From the time when I was still an apprentice, you have always been so kind to me."

SUZY Menkes

CHRIS Van Meter

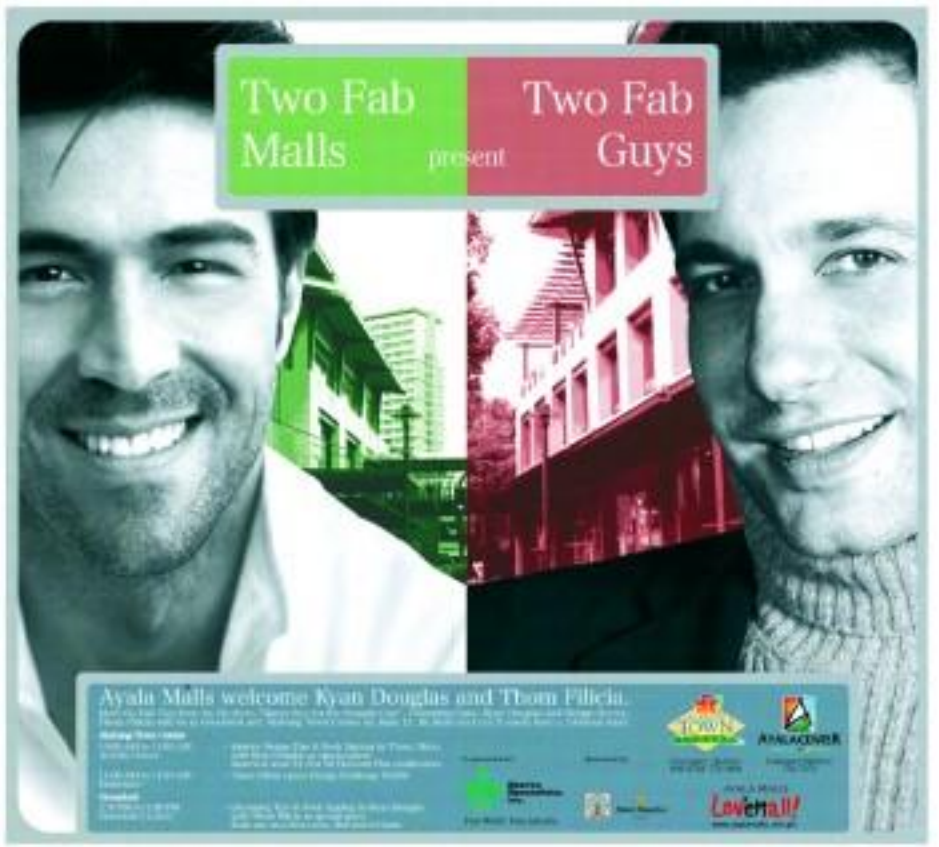
ANN Bernadescasas

After the dinner I was able to meet some of my fashion heroes like Belgian designers Ann Demeulemeester and Dries Van Noten, also in attendance were Filipinos Rodin Zobel with partner Robbie Adkisson, fashion powerhouse Rhea and Tina Ocampo and dynamic sisters Linda Bo Medlar and Doris Fia.

The best young dinner was held at the more than 200-year-old and three-star Michelin restaurant Le Grand Véfour. This historic restaurant is owned by the Taittinger family and its frequent guests included Napoleon and Josephine, Victor Hugo, Chopin, Colette, Henri Balzac and other legendary writers as well as visionaries, philosophers, etc. whose presence has been permanently etched on brass nameplates affixed on the red banquettes.

This three-day event coupled with the sights and sounds of Paris, the Yohji Yamamoto, Louis Vuitton, Fil, fall winter 2005 Weaver's collection, were such a treat (but despite the 3rd member losing my laptop and drink, it will remain a standout for all the trips I have done and will put to rest).

E-mail: annmedj@philstar.com



DAY3-old Athena sun-bathing at Medical City

4D ULTRASOUND at fourth wk with Dr. Ina Gocolay and Dr. Vic Cuaso

MEDICAL City nurses all in a row

Surviving Athena

TESSA!

Suzee Prieto-Teodoro

AFTER A MONTH in motherhood, Siberia, with zero social events, it's great to slowly ease back into the real world. My life is quite simple these days, much like a cow waiting to be milked. I just hang around wearing a nightgown all day until Athena comes around, ready for her next feeding. My only contact with earth is via Internet, and at this pace I may completely drop off the Philippine Tatler's "100 Most Invited" List!

What a change from my last trimester, feeling so loved by my dearest friends who held so many baby showers for me. My Assumption College high school batchmates hosted my first shower last February, then there was a Greek-theme party at Urban Spa and lastly a Pretty-in-Pink memento at style icon Tina Ocampo's home.

I was figuratively and literally roaring in the summer heat of May sweating while savouring the arrival of my baby. My bubbly friends and I had finished our lamaze refresher course. To the unfamiliar, lamaze is a technique of natural childbirth, where one is physically and psychologically prepared with prenatal training.

No New Money Lamaze expert Ilona Raingal (tel. 09173453134) since we took lessons from her 10 years ago when I had my second son, Tomas, and again three years thereafter when my third child, Sandra, came along. For Athena, I was half thinking about whether or finally try anesthesia, since she would be my last baby.

Last May 3, at my weekly exercise checkup with my OB, Dr. Nubbe Abesamis, she asked me to have an ultrasound to check on the condition of the baby. It is quite amazing that technology is now so advanced that there are 4D ultrasounds, with time as the fourth dimension. I had one in Normal, where they gave you a CD video clip of your baby inside the womb. The best time to go is on your seventh month because my earlier, the fetus looks too grenoble like.

Smooth delivery

To my surprise, the ultrasound at Medical City showed that I had placenta previa, a condition that indicates a Caesarean delivery be done very day. 05.30.07, I delivered my muchness Cesarean baby, Athena, at 10:05 p.m. It's a most auspicious day, such that people thought I had really planned the birth for that day and might name her Sue Ann. The entire delivery was so smooth. Athena was born with so much black hair. I've gotten so used to my 32-head, coloured hair. I thought she might have been born as a blonde.

Medical City is an amazing hospital that resembles a hotel, complete with a food court, a Starbucks, a modern chapel and a hair salon. With its state-of-the-art equipment and luxurious amenities, I felt so comfortable knowing my baby would be born in sanitized conditions and get expert treatment. Though we had to change rooms three times because of the maxi. Aircon air-conditioning, my overall stay was wonderful. Dennis and our wives spending as much as we would have at a resort in Bali, so better to just be back and enjoy the vacation.

After a minor complication in my wound, where I was treated at the more experienced Makati Medical Center, I am finally on the road to recovery. If only Medical City had the staff of experts of Makati Medical Center—that would be an unbeatable combination. My stay at Makati Med was all the more pleasant since chef Ed Quimson, who was also checked in, sent me food daily. No! Fearing blood sucks for me! With his killer desserts as well. I think I gained back the weight I was beginning to lose. You don't need to be pregnant to check out his sumptuous menu and to-die-for Chocolate Fudge Cake, all at Chef Ed's on 114 Ville de la Costa Street.

Now that I am finally settled at home, I seem to be more exhausted with the whole breastfeeding schedule. I'm getting tips from my Chinese friend, Ingrid Go, who swears to her as expert in extracting maximum milking volume. She suggests taking lots of soup, like tapa-tapa soup with ginger and malunggay leaves, mashang manok and Ramar soup. Avoid cold drinks because these will give you a permanent belly and take a daily shot of Serenelle, a Portuguese pure anise that enhances even in the blood. All these Chinese beliefs are worth following, except for the unusual practice of not bathing for seconds after delivery.

Pinay inventions

Modern machines have also advanced in promoting breast-feeding. A parody Philippine-made product, Natalac Capacitor by Dennis Natalac, has been proven to increase milk production through an honor-winning clinical study. Based on my personal experience, it really works and I have checked with the owners if I can take the medium dose as four times a day since Natalac is all natural, being made from all-malunggay leaves. It's very safe.

The same manufacturers also produce Ob Max Capsule, a pre- and postnatal multivitamin with Tocotrienol for baby's brain development, and Chamber Cream for gummies. With the height prime ministry from both Brunei and me, Chamber is a great Christmas gift.

Speaking of Pinay inventions, a unique, feeding product called Pedro Breast Pump, by Feeding Systems was introduced to me by a reader who e-mailed from the US. The bottles are patterned to the Widow and were invented by Dr. Pedro's GYN, who is a PH Am. Check out their website, www.pedro.com, to see their interesting product, which has been in the world market over a decade.

Today, our Athena is a month old and her mother is now changing. Where she grows up, she will get to know Pope Benedict XVI and "Star Wars Episode 9." (And you think George Lucas will stop at six? Ha!) Until we, think she will be watching her mommy on "Look Who's Talking," together with co-hosts Johnny Litton and Antoine San Diego. By the way, DYT has a new day and time: ABC 10 p.m., Mondays, on ABC 5.

Mother's Day should be celebrated monthly! The sacrifices and attention we give to our children are so admirable and under-appreciated, and for those daughter-in-laws out there feeling so cramped up, as my precious milk is pumped out, using my Medela double breast pump (they didn't have this 10 years ago!), seemingly designed for Bobcadia livestock, I just hope I survive more than a month of breast-feeding.

E-mail me at suzeprieto@inquirer.com.ph

PRETTY in Pink baby shower at the home of Tina Ocampo

HELLO Kitty friends Tina and Baron Ocampo with baby Sulenne Santos

SMILE! cover girls Tina Ocampo and Sulenne Santos

LAMAZE instructor Ilona with lamaze moms Raingal in the middle

CHECK-UP/PRIED surprise party at Urban Spa complete with costumes by Raja Laurel and décor by Anton Barrozo

SURPRISE baby shower with Assumption HS '81 at Caroline Singson's home

BATCH '81 gang Tina Almagro, Singbing Delgado, Yolly Nonato and Karina Gubeng

ASSUMPTION friends Precita Jimenez, Nina Sison, Marites Sunio, Eleonor Aguilar and Carmela Pryce

WONDERFUL OB Dr. Nubia Abesamis

PRETTY ladies Lolita Carpo, Chona Carpo, Salita Ocampo and Karla Delgado

CAKE genius Pook Ching

EXPERT nurse Dr. Claire Pandayan with daughter Ann

SHOWER guests Annie San Diego, Maurice Arcache, Irene Francisco and Joji Ongpin

GENEROUS gourmet chef Ed Quimson with Mariel Prieto, me and Sandy Romualdez

STYLISH moms Eguia Bueno, Mary Tanmoo and Mandy Santos

Cebu's 'royal' bash

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Piccarnell

THE QUATA International of Cebu, in cooperation with the Cebu Women and Children Hospital, presented its annual fundraiser, which is also a fund-raiser for its various charitable projects.

Our Queen project is a high school for hearing-impaired children from poor families. The organization also supports day care centers in Barrio Sawang Calero, and the remote mountain barangays of Cebu.

The celebration started with a Mass at the Blessed Pedro Calungsod Some day he may become the first Cebuano saint) shrine within the Archbishop's palace grounds. The proceeds of Fiesta declared active and lovely together with D. Jubasdela street, through Mango Avenue, and down Ramon Aboitiz Street in Banilad, site of the Centro Español de Cebu where the coronation program was held.

Fairest

Carmen Calamaingin was crowned Reina Emperatriz by Rep. **Tonil del Mar** and last year's title holder, fiancesan **Carlos Hilbinion**, escorted by her dashing husband, Dr **Tacky Hilbinion**. A bouquet of flowers was presented by Queta District 41 governor Lan Cuilla, who was accompanied by **Therese Jaundoni**, past president of Queta in Iloilo.

Francesca Maria Elena Sy was Reina Elena. Forming her duchess on her head was their lead, or Martina "Boling" Go Chong Hai, escorted by Gen. **Adelberto Yap**, general manager of the Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority.

The Emperador Constantino was Emik Warner Ebanchez, crowned by his predecessor, Xavier Lozada, and Victoria Constantino, the youngest and prettiest in the Cebu provincial board. Young princes in the emperor's court were **Kyle Cleto, Kobe Bryan Abellanosa, Enzo Tolentino, John Tomandu** and Antoni Laguna.

All in pink was Reina de las Flores **Gillianne Samsonadres**, who received scepter and crown from last year's Queen of Flowers, **Cherie Chequina**. Zapata in her court were **Jessica Lagunzad, Katrina Guerra, Anabani Adlawan, Tricia Rama, Ambien Cuizon** and Marie Angelie Mendoza.

A wisp of a girl, Evanmarie Mendoza, was Reina de los Angeles, crowned by Antoine **Mendiargin Ramo** and Cebu City Councilor Hilario Davide III. In her angelic court were **Diana Cagill, Elizabeth de Dios, Ryhen Reyhelo, Amyra Adriatico, Mariella Seabrook, Mhaie Ate Tan, Gilal Rachel, Zoobiko Cayno** and Mary Bernadette Batiola.

Homage

Dances in honor of the queens were performed by hearing-impaired students of the high school, gracefully executing the drawing-rugby according to directions of the music. Senior-year participants also had a rapid dance. The younger ones did a stylized tipolo, while the winners participated in a Cotillion.

Cristina Cuevodeas, incoming president of the Cebu Quota and over-all chair, deserves heaps of praise for a very successful event. Her co-chair and incoming vice president for internal affairs is the super efficient **Isabel Bartido**.

At the end of the program they congratulated **Susanne Cedilla**, registrar of the D. Bosco's Learning Center who, for months, coached the participants from the school's students, together with director **Bby Bonanno**. Lydia Bartido, school principal, is the Cebu Quota charter president, and this anniversary project is very dear to her heart.

Also congratulated was the evening's toastmaster **Silvino Ong**, son of former Quota Cebu president **Martinez Salas Ong**, now based in Manila but who came to Cebu for the occasion.

Everyone in the Cebu Quota club deserves commendation for the splendid teamwork and

REINA de los Angeles Evanmarie Mendoza

EMPERADOR Constantino Enrike Martin Chiualey

REINA de las Flores Gillianne Samsonadres

REINA Elena Ma. Elena Sy

REINA Emperatriz Carmen Calamaingin